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20P

# THE TIMES

No. 65,131

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7 1994

Fierce battle over VAT on fuel

## Blair taunts Tories on tax 'to freeze old'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and Nicholas Wood

TONY BLAIR delivered an outspoken appeal to Conservative MPs yesterday to prevent VAT on domestic fuel from being raised to 17.5 per cent as he taunted the Government for pressing on with "this hated and most unpopular tax".

The Labour leader said that pensioners could freeze in their homes because the Government was trying to give itself the leeway to make tax cuts next year. In his fiercest Commons attack since becoming leader, he exploited the Government's deep embarrassment as John Major, Kenneth Clarke and other ministers mounted an eleven-hour effort to stave off defeat in last night's vote.

The Prime Minister held an urgent meeting with Mr Clarke immediately after arriving back from the international security conference in Budapest yesterday evening. Possible improvements to the £650 million compensation package already on offer were being considered.

Mr Major appealed for loyalty from Tory MPs and said he hoped that the nine MPs who lost the party whip last week would support the Government. As the pressure built on the rebels, Tony Newton, the Commons leader, gave the most explicit threat so far that interest rates could rise if the Government lost.

Mr Blair suggested in angry exchanges with Mr Newton that the Government was more concerned with the election tax cuts than with the nation's finances. "The price of tax cuts next winter will be

### Champagne cut

As the VAT debate raged it was revealed that the duty on a bottle of champagne had been cut by 27p. The Treasury said it was a move towards excise duty harmonisation.

that some of Britain's pensioners freeze in their own homes this winter," he said.

At 7pm, three hours before the crucial division, senior ministers admitted that the vote was still close and that the Government could lose. They were hoping for success from a series of meetings between Mr Clarke and the potential rebels, at which the Chancellor was believed to be exploring whether a concession could buy off enough rebels to secure victory.

At a news conference in Budapest before leaving for London, Mr Major made a plea for unity. Then, in a reference to the nine MPs who lost the whip last week, he added: "I hope colleagues will continue to support the Conservative Government. In due course, therefore, no doubt they will wish to return to the Conservative whip."

The threat of a humiliating defeat, blowing a £15 billion hole in the Budget arithmetic, was an unwelcome distraction to Mr Major as he held talks with his foreign counterparts on the future of Nato and the war in Bosnia. On Monday night he took a telephone call from Mr Clarke, updating him on the progress of government efforts to avoid defeat.

Mr Major hurried back to London with his retinue of senior officials as soon as the conference finished.

Sir Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kempdown, was one of several MPs called to private meetings with Mr Clarke and Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary. After his first half-hour session he insisted that he would not back the Government because he had not been promised the compensation he wanted for pensioners. "I told him I would consider what he had said, but I could not say I would be voting with the Government tonight."

Cabinet ministers spent the day piling pressure on the rebels, while playing down the consequences of defeat. Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, said: "It is not the be-all and end-all. This is not Armageddon, but it is obviously important for the Government to demonstrate that it is able to deliver its Budget judgment."

Mr Blair, setting out the disarray in the Conservative Party, reminded the Commons, on the final day of the Budget debate, of promises made at the last election not to increase VAT. He said: "There will be two types of Tory MP tonight: those that will abide by their specific promise not to extend VAT on fuel and those who will make any promise to get elected, with no intention of keeping it even when some

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Protesters outside the Houses of Parliament before yesterday's VAT debate

## Summit ends in fiasco over failure to find deal on Bosnia

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BUDAPEST

THE 52-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe collapsed yesterday in a welter of recriminations after it failed to agree any declaration on the war in Bosnia, or overcome procedural wrangles over sending a peacekeeping force to Nagorno-Karabakh and the role of Russian troops in former Soviet republics.

After almost two days of talks, the only concrete result of one of the largest gatherings of world leaders yet held in Europe was that the body decided to rename itself the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The summit opened on Monday with an outburst by President Yeltsin of Russia, who denounced plans for the expansion of Nato, and ended with a tirade against Western policy in Bosnia by the Bosnian delegation. The two issues dominated and soured the conference, sparking talk of a new East-West "cold peace".

The spectacular failure, underlined by President Clinton's decision to hurry home for a White House Christmas party and the early departure of Presidents Yeltsin, Mitterrand and several other leaders, sparked speculation that the next scheduled summit, in two years time, might be scrapped. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, hinted at the irrelevance of the gathering to European security when he remarked: "People are not looking at their watches and saying 'When is the CSCE going to produce a document on Bosnia?'"

The row over Bosnia broke out in the final plenary session, when Mahir Hadziametovic, the chief Bosnian delegate, refused to accept a Russian veto of any reference to Serb aggression around Bihac. He rejected a call for a ceasefire around Bihac

because he said the draft communiqué made no mention of Serb aggressors.

The Russians, the most forceful champions of the Serbs, refused to accept a draft that called for a security zone around the northwest of Bihac.

The row embarrassed the other members who had hoped that all-night negotiations by officials would find a form of words that would satisfy both sides. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, regretted the failure to adopt any call for an end to hostilities. John Major tried to play down the fiasco, saying only that it would have been



Hurd: hinted summit irrelevant to security

"agreeable" if something had been said.

The summit's hopes to involve itself in the other conflict between two of its members — Armenia and Azerbaijan — over the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, were also disappointed. The conference agreed to the sending of a multinational peacekeeping force. But this could not begin work until a formal truce was declared, and Russia insisted that the UN Security Council first give formal approval.

Britain near pullout, page 12

### Royal oil well subsidence risk

The Queen has given approval to plans to drill for oil beneath Windsor Castle. But geologists warned yesterday that while the scheme is likely to make the House of Windsor richer it could also undermine it. Subsidence would threaten the castle if the estimated 50 to 100 million barrels of oil believed to lie beneath it are extracted. Page 4

### Aircraft seized

A private jet used by Adnan Khashoggi, the arms dealer, has been seized by parties acting for Lomrho, the international trading conglomerate. The aircraft is at Heathrow airport. Page 25

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## Portillo stops EU law on part-timers

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

MICHAEL Portillo, the Employment Secretary, yesterday blocked a European Union directive which would have given Britain's six million part-time workers the same entitlement as full-time workers.

Mr Portillo successfully defended the use of the veto, arguing that the directive would destroy jobs in Britain. The veto leaves the other 11 member-states free to go ahead with the legislation, which covers sick pay, annual holidays and rights against dismissal, under the Maastricht social protocol.

However, Mr Portillo faces defeat over a second EU directive, giving rights to workers employed abroad in the EU, which is likely to be adopted at an emergency meeting before Christmas. If adopted, the "posted workers" directive will force EU employers to comply with national minimum wage agreements, and will prevent contractors in one country hiring cheap labour from another country. Mr Portillo said that this amounts to a restriction in the free move-

ment of labour. Norbert Blüm, the German Employment Minister, said that "a worker is a worker. People should have the same pay for the same job".

Germany has brought the directive under the umbrella of the single-market legislation, under which a law can be passed by a qualified majority. This means Britain cannot veto the plan by itself.

Mr Portillo argues that the directive is an employment law and therefore should be subject to unanimous agreement. If Britain loses, he is almost certain to launch an appeal at the European Court of Justice.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said last night: "Michael Portillo's slap in the face for Britain's six million part-time workers shows he has no idea how important part-time work now is."

John Monks, the TUC general-secretary, said opting-out was "a missed opportunity to make part-time work more attractive, secure and fair".

Letters, page 19

## Denktas seeks arrest of Nadir

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN NICOSIA

BRITISH accountants and lawyers are preparing to take control, possibly later this week, of two luxury hotels in northern Cyprus formerly controlled by Asil Nadir, who is wanted in Britain on theft charges after jumping bail last year.

At the same time Rauf Denktaş, the northern Cypriot leader, called for Mr Nadir to be arrested "without delay" on tax evasion



Nadir: also wanted for trial in Britain

charges. Mr Nadir is thought to owe at least £3.8 million in unpaid tax.

Representatives of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm now looking after what is left of Polly Peck International, Mr Nadir's trading empire, are in talks with the northern Cyprus authorities to reclaim the hotels, which the authorities seized two weeks ago. They are offering to repay about £1 million of Mr Nadir's debts if the authorities help them. Page 25

## Democrats sign up Oliver Twist in orphanage battle

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

OLIVER TWIST, victim of the Victorian workhouse, is at the centre of the hottest debate in Washington as Republicans attack the welfare system and call for the re-creation of the orphanage.

The proposal is being exploited by the White House and the Democratic Party who believe that is a public relations blunder from the incoming majority Republicans in Congress. Focusing on the Dickensian strictures and hypocrisies of the Victorian age, Hillary Clinton has described the idea as "unbelievable and absurd," while George Stephanopoulos, the presidential adviser, said last week: "We'll mail all Republican members a copy of Oliver Twist."

Newt Gingrich, the incoming Speaker of the House, has defended the scheme, recommending that the First Lady watch the 1938 film *Boys Town*, the fictional story of the facility for troubled teenagers in Nebraska. He said orphanages were better than leaving children, to "brutalisation and degradation."

Expansion of orphanages was included in the Republican welfare reform package that forms part of the Contract with America. The Bill recognises that orphanages would be needed after welfare reforms which include scrapping assistance to single mothers under 18, and children whose mothers do not establish paternity.

At least five million predominantly black children, almost half the total receiving welfare payments, could be denied

current benefits under such provisions. Both the cost, estimated by Democrats to be \$34 billion (£21.7 billion) in the creation of new homes, and the numerous connotations have caused more moderate Republicans to distance themselves.

Nevertheless, a main impulse behind the revival of the orphanage has been a catastrophic decline in proper practices of child rearing among America's poor.

Inspired by the social scientist Charles Murray of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, the orphanage has been part of the Republican lexicon for some months. "I am not recommending Dickensian barracks," he wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* last October. "We know a lot about how to provide a warm nurturing environment for children, and getting rid of the welfare system frees up a lot of money to do it."

It was only weeks after the overwhelming defeat of the Democrats in mid-term elections, however, that officials at the White House recognised that a concept which invoked institutional workhouses packed with starving waifs could be used to their advantage.

"To say *Boys Town* is reflective of life in orphanages is like comparing *Hogan's Heroes* to life in Nazi prison camps," said Robert Matsui, Democratic representative for California.

Whitewater guilt, page 14

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## Feathers fly as Clarke fails to shake off Santa in hot pursuit

A sign of the times — an unforgettable moment — occurred for your sketchwriter yesterday morning as I crossed Whitehall. Approaching the traffic island in the middle of the street a familiar figure came running in the opposite direction towards me, panting.

It was the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke. He wore a hunted look. Running after him and hot on his heels came another familiar figure. It was Father Christmas. This Father

Christmas was plastered with stickers protesting against VAT on heating fuel. Running in a scattering around Santa and his quarry, like foxhounds around a hunt, scampered a handful of press photographers, snapping merrily. As the chase receded into the distance, Santa seemed to be gaining on the Chancellor and the photographers closing in on both. Whether Clarke's persecutors ever caught him I do not know.

Whether his Commons persecutors caught him in the

vote later last night you will by now know. A warning of impending battle was sounded at Prime Minister's Questions. The PM being in Budapest, his place was taken by Tony Newton, the Leader of the House. In the past, squaring up to the late John Smith, Newton has looked ill at ease. Smith had a political weightiness — a statesmanlike quality which Newton lacks.

Facing Newton yesterday was another Tony: Labour's new leader was ready. Thus far, squaring up to John

Major, Tony Blair has looked tense and nervous. Major has age and experience which young Blair lacks. It was Tony vs. Tony: Smith's replacement vs. Major's stand-in. Blair was at public school, Newton at an independent school, and both were at Oxford. Both are thin, spare, slightly edgy men:

lightweights with classless accents. Both have boyish tenor voices. MPs crowded in for the Parliamentary equivalent of bantam cock-fighting. The two birds were perfectly matched. Newton was not overawed; Blair was not nervous. In a blur of claws each tore at the other: shrieking, jabbing their beaks and flap-

ping their wings. The subject, of course, was VAT. Blair called the Tories unprincipled. Newton squawked "cop-out" at him over his windfall tax. Blair, his colour rising, snapped that there were "two types of Tory": honest ones, and Tories who would promise anything to get elected. This caused belligerent howls from supporters of the Tory cock, who strutted to the dispatch box and pecked a beakful of feathers from the Labour bantam, yelling that there was only one type of

Labour MP, the cop-out variety. More cheers. This was too much for the bantam Blair. His own supporters roaring him on, he pecked viciously back and dared to throw a third question (he almost never does) about grinding the faces of the poor. More squawks from Newton, who told his foe to stick to two questions in future. Roars and bellows from all sides ("Order! All of you!" — Madam Speaker) and, wings flapping, our two principal chickens were

pulled back into their boxes in a flurry of flying feathers. By contrast, George Walden MP reminded us of those noble geese in the Antarctic that you can walk right up to, and writing their necks. He chose PM's questions to undermine his own front bench and attack the Royal Family. But Walden is a Tory! Representing Buckingham. After the cock-fighting it was strangely moving to encounter so thoughtful a bird with so scant an instinct for self-preservation.

## Peace process stymied by breakdown in Dublin

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SIR Patrick Mayhew admitted yesterday that the Northern Ireland peace process had been stalled by the political crisis in Dublin.

The Northern Ireland Secretary said that negotiations on an Anglo-Irish document on the future of Northern Ireland had been put on hold because of the Irish parliament's failure to elect a new prime minister.

Speaking in Belfast he said: "There will be a hiatus until there is a new government. But I have often said that every major political party in the Republic is committed to the peace process and I don't foresee any change."

His comments came as the

Irish Labour Party indicated that it would try to form a coalition Government with the opposition Fine Gael party after the collapse of talks with Fianna Fail yesterday.

Dick Spring, the Labour leader, telephoned John Bruton, leader of Fine Gael, in the first move towards forming a "rainbow coalition" that would have to include at least one of the Dail's smaller parties.

Brendan Howlin, the former Labour Health Minister, said that it was incumbent on his party to open talks with Fine Gael. "Preliminary discussions have taken place... to see if there is a basis for progressing into serious discussions on the formation of a new government. It is incumbent upon all of us to exhaust this possibility."

The first sign of co-operation between Labour and Fine Gael came when MPs from the two parties voted yesterday to set up a Dail committee to examine the dispute over the legal appointment that brought down the coalition Government last month.

Dick Spring, the Labour leader and former Deputy Prime Minister, formally broke off negotiations with Fianna Fail at 2am yesterday after new allegations about the appointment of Harry Whelahan, the former Attorney-General, as President of the High Court. Labour withdrew from the Government last month because of delays by the Attorney-General's office in processing extradition warrants for Father Brendan Smyth, who was later convicted of child abuse.

The Irish Times claimed that Albert Reynolds had defended Mr Whelahan in the Dail after privately calling on him to resign. Mr Reynolds has since stood down as Prime Minister, but Labour demanded to know whether Fianna Fail Cabinet ministers knew about the alleged request for Mr Whelahan to resign.

Mr Reynolds, still acting Prime Minister, mounted a strong defence of his handling of the affair in the Dail yesterday. He said: "The issue is that we did not — either I or any of my colleagues — try to deceive or mislead the Dail. Nor was there any conspiracy." He urged the Dail to form a new government and avoid a general election.

Police in Belfast will today question Father Smyth over three new allegations of child sex abuse. He will be interviewed at Antrim Road police station and a report may be forwarded to Northern Ireland's Director of Public Prosecutions. Father Smyth is serving a four-year sentence at Magilligan Prison in Co Londonderry.



Kenneth Clarke arriving at Parliament last night for the crucial VAT vote

## Blair exploits VAT divisions

Continued from page 1  
of the poorest in our country will be affected."

Mr Newton, standing in for the Prime Minister, said that Labour had no credible alternative except an "irresponsible cop-out" related to windfall taxes on privatised companies and closing tax loopholes. "All the time they prattle about their desire to encourage employment," he said. "And every time they are pushed, they want to put up business taxes, raise social costs and damage investment and jobs."

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, also defended the

VAT rise. He said it was needed "because the Government is determined to maintain the discipline that has enabled any Chancellor to produce a Budget that has gained the confidence of the markets and which is an essential pre-requisite to maintain the growth on which prosperity depends."

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Industry Secretary, contrasted the higher VAT on fuel with measures that would result in a fall in the price of champagne. To shouts of "Shame" from Labour MPs, he told Mr Clarke: "In this Budget you are reducing the duty on cham-

pagne. Why do you feel it is so essential to the well-being of the economy?"

Teresa Higgins, a former Treasury Minister, said the VAT vote was a question of whether the Government could get its business through. "I feel bound to say we don't know what the effect tomorrow morning would be if the Opposition amendment were carried today." He added that the kind of deficit being forecast for two or three years' time was still likely to be too high.

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Leading article  
and Letters, page 19

## Ministers attempt to charm rebels into line

By JILL SHERMAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Government resorted to a "charm offensive" rather than strong-arm tactics in the hours leading up to last night's Commons vote on VAT on domestic fuel.

Instead of the usual complaints about heavy-handedness, potential dissidents emerged from their enclosures with the whips, often dubbed the "thought police", speaking of the courtesy and politeness with which they had been received.

But the Government's efforts were relentless. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, met a group of likely rebels just three hours before the crucial amendment aimed at forcing a vote on the second VAT rise, from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent.

Mr Clarke and Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Treasury Secretary, spent most of the day seeing individual rebels who had made clear their opposition to the second stage of VAT on fuel.

One likely rebel claimed the Government had learnt from last week. He said: "It was completely the wrong tactic to withdraw the whip from the Euro-rebels." Another said: "This has been a matter of persuasion, not bullying. I think that Mr Clarke is a big enough politician to recognise that."

The backbenchers were, however, told in no uncertain terms that they risked jeopardising the Government's Budget and upsetting the financial markets if they backed the procedural motion on VAT last night.

Mr Clarke listened to the rebels' demands for an enhanced compensation package for pensioners but gave no early indication that he would bow to them. "He is not in the mood for concessions," one rebel said.

Blair appeal, page 1

## Cash share-out aims to revive inner cities

Deprived inner-city areas from Hackney in London to Merseyside are to share £575,000 from a government scheme to boost jobs, increase training and tackle urban decay. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced that over 200 projects have won funding from the new Single Regeneration Budget.

Mr Gummer said that the schemes would safeguard more than 300,000 jobs and generate nearly 20,000 new businesses. He said for every £1 being given by the Government it was expected that £4 would come from private and public sources including money from Europe. The funds will be allocated over three years.

## Bombs sent to Barclays

Six incendiary bombs wrapped in Christmas paper were sent through the post to branches of Barclays Bank in north and west London. Two of the bombs exploded but there were no serious injuries. No organisation admitted sending the devices, hidden in video cassette boxes, and a bank spokeswoman said Barclays had received no threats. Police warned staff to look out for cassette cases picturing four men under the headline "Mardi Gras Experience", wrapped in paper with gold snowflakes on a blue background.

## Priest's £42,000 payout

The Catholic Church has paid £42,000 in compensation to a young trainee priest abused by one of his teachers. The Church has denied that it was guilty of a cover-up even though it did not involve the police when the allegations were made. Father Desmond Lynagh molested "Michael", now 34, who was a 14-year-old trainee at Blair's College in Aberdeen at the time. The Church says Father Lynagh was given an administrative job after the allegations and is still receiving therapy.

## Soldiers' case referred

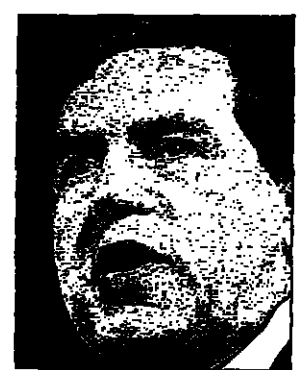
Attempts by three British soldiers to be freed without facing trial for the murder of a Danish tour guide were referred to the Cyprus Supreme Court yesterday. Alan Ford, Justin Fowler and Jeff Pernel claim that they cannot expect a fair trial because warders at Nicosia prison confiscated confidential notes written by two of them to their lawyers.

## Dockers pick up £8m

More than 340 dock workers are to share in an £8 million payout for stocks they hold in their company. Staff at the Teesside and Hartlepool docks will receive almost £60,000 for shares which have increased 36 times in value since they were bought two years ago when the docks were privatised under the engineering and transport group Powell Duffryn.

## Talking nonsense

An analysis of "post neo-classical endogenous growth theory" by Gordon Brown, right, the shadow Chancellor, was recognised by the Plain English Campaign yesterday as the worst piece of public gobbledegook reported on television. His infamous speech — dubbed the "Gobbledegook Theory of Economics" by one newspaper — earned him the campaign's 1994 "No Nonsense Award".



## Home births 'safest'

Home births are as safe as hospital births and may lead to fewer complications, according to the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. There is no evidence to support the claim that the safest policy is for all women to give birth in hospital, and for some the risk of complications associated with a hospital delivery may outweigh any benefit.

## More gales expected

Winds gusting to 80mph swept northern and western Britain, toppling trees and causing structural damage in some exposed places. Heavy rain also made driving conditions hazardous. Another weather system coming in from the Atlantic is expected to bring more gales and rain to the South West tomorrow.

Forecast, page 24

## Revamped TA to take bigger role

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Defence Secretary, last night unveiled reforms to the Territorial Army aimed at giving it a more active role in peacetime.

The changes include giving one regiment, the Royal Yeomanry, the specialist role of dealing with the effects of nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. The need for such a unit was realised after the Gulf War.

The changes come after the disclosure last summer that the size of the Territorial Army would be cut from 60,300 to 39,000. Announcing the results of a review started in July, Mr Rifkind said the changes would be implement-

ed by April 1997 when the manpower cuts come into effect.

The TA would remain "an integral component of our defence forces on mobilisation" and would act as a general reserve to the Army, Mr Rifkind said in a Commons written answer.

The number of rifle companies in the TA Infantry is due to fall from 109 to 87 but the number of sub units in the Royal Armoured Corps would rise from 17 to 22 in the Royal Logistic Corps from 69 to 86; in the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers from 13 to 16 and in the Adjutant-General's Corps from 10 to 11. The existing manpower of the

Special Air Service TA will be maintained.

In the infantry, the support weapons platoons of eight battalions will be concentrated into "specialist two-company fire support battalions". Mr Rifkind said: "These fire support battalions will be available to support all infantry battalions and will improve overall infantry training and operational effectiveness."

The four battalions taking on this role will be the 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets; the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; the 1/51st Highland Volunteers; and the 3rd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment. The 1st and 2nd

Battalions of the Wessex Regiment will merge, while the Royal Anglia TA will be reduced from three to two battalions. The 8th Battalion, The Light Infantry, will become a national defence reconnaissance regiment in the Royal Armoured Corps, taking over the present role of the Royal Yeomanry.

## CORRECTION

Ms Judy Taylor is chairman of the Beatrix Potter Society, and not, as incorrectly reported (December 1), Ms Judy Thomas. We apologise for the error.

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## Lord Hartwell's daughter denies plot against doctor

By A Staff Reporter

THE daughter of a former owner of *The Daily Telegraph* was accused yesterday of falsely claiming that the young wife of a Harley Street doctor swindled her out of thousands of pounds.

Eleanor Berry, whose father is Lord Hartwell, admitted to having a vivid imagination and to keeping a diary of grievances against a doctor at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

During exchanges with Henry Blaxland, counsel for Gida Ratner, a former model and the widow of Victor Ratner, a wealthy society GP, she agreed she had listed ways of "causing pain" to a Dr Larry Baker, Miss Berry, who underwent "ozone reactivation therapy" at Dr Ratner's clinic, said the methods she dreamt up remained figments of her imagination.

She was giving evidence on the second day of the trial of Mrs Ratner, 21, whose 61-year-old husband died last year, days after being confronted with his wife's alleged dishonesty.

Mrs Ratner, who lives in an apartment at her late husband's former practice, denies stealing six cheques from Miss Berry while she was a patient at the clinic, and also an alternative charge that she handled them. She also denies four charges of using a false instrument with intent, two of forging cheques and one deception charge, alleging she obtained £1,470 worth of clothes from a Chelsea store.

During cross-examination,

Miss Berry, 44, denied forging entries on cheques which the Crown has alleged were made by Mrs Ratner. Mr Blaxland asked: "You attempted to avoid paying money which you legitimately owed to Dr Ratner?"

Miss Berry: "That is absolutely untrue and it is unworthy of your profession to make allegations of me, an honest woman."

The prosecution witness, who denied she was "schem-

ing and dishonest", told Knightsbridge Crown Court that the doctor at St Bartholomew's, where she used to work as a medical secretary, had become jealous because of her affection for another man called Robert Maxwell and alleged that he eventually caused her to become redundant.

Miss Berry was asked if she had ever received psychiatric treatment for depression. She agreed she had, but denied the problem had ever affected her judgment. Asked why she had outlined what she would like to do to Dr Baker but had never put her plans into effect, Miss Berry said they were nothing more than "figments of my imagination... The things in that document were not committed. I think all imaginative and intellectual people have fantasies." However, she agreed she had approached solicitors to sue the doctor for libel "with the intention of terrifying him".

Mr Blaxland also asked her if she had pretended to be a magistrate in a letter she had written to a taxi firm after one of its drivers had apparently caused her a back injury by his driving. She said she had, and had also threatened that if he harmed any members of her family in such a way "I will personally come to your headquarters and kill him".

Later she told the court that her father, Lord Hartwell, from whom she had received a private income for many years, had written to her complaining about her "senseless extravagance". He had pointed out to her that in the year ending March 1992 she had spent £104,000, as well as a further £70,000 during the following six months. She agreed her father had also expressed concern about the £900 a week she was paying for Dr Ratner's ozone injections.

Mr Blaxland accused Miss Berry of taking cocaine and other drugs at the Preventive Medicine Clinic with Dr Ratner, whose patients included Princess Alexandra. Miss Berry denied doing so.

She denied sending Dr Baker leaflets through the post on impotence, premature ejaculation and herpes.

Miss Berry also denied writing to Customs and Excise and reporting Dr Baker for carrying heroin internally. However, she admitted writing a list on a computer at Dr Ratner's office entitled: "Punishment for Larry Baker for his evil crimes".

Miss Berry said she had written hundreds of abusive letters to people who had upset her but never posted them. The trial continues.



Lisa Taylor, left, supported by her sister Tracey, speaking outside the High court yesterday

## Sisters in murder trial win right to challenge Attorney-General

By Richard Duce

TWO sisters, whose murder convictions were quashed after sensationalised reports of their trial, won leave yesterday for a judicial review of the Attorney-General's refusal to prosecute the newspapers involved for contempt.

Michelle Taylor, 24, and her sister Lisa, 21, had their convictions quashed by the Appeal Court last year on the ground that press coverage had denied them a fair trial. The judges referred the case to Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, but after almost 12 months it became known that he had deemed it "not appropriate" to start contempt proceedings.

The sisters, from Forest Hill, south London, made British legal history as the

first case where press coverage was ruled to have seriously prejudiced the defence. They were convicted in June 1992 of murdering Alison Shaughnessy, a bank clerk, and served 11 months of their life sentences before their convictions were quashed as unsafe and unsatisfactory.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for the sisters, told yesterday's hearing before Mr Justice Schiemann that they had gone to prison "as the result of a trial prejudiced by unlawful newspaper coverage". He said the sisters were concerned that the same thing could happen again if the Attorney-General did not act. If the press was given an inch it "will take a mile. It is not a question of vengeance but that others should not

suffer as they have done." Mr Robertson said. The judge granted leave for a judicial review which is expected to take place next spring. A panel of three judges could then refer the case back to Sir Nicholas.

After the two-hour hearing Mark Stephens, the sisters' solicitor, said: "This is a salutary lesson for the Attorney-General. He didn't deal with this matter, he passed it down to someone who got the law wrong. It is a classic case of legal arrogance."

Sir Nicholas had been asked by the Appeal Court to consider whether contempt proceedings should be brought against *The Sun*, *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Star* and *Daily Express*. During the trial the newspapers pub-

lished photographs from a video, not produced in evidence, which showed Michelle Taylor kissing Mrs Shaughnessy's husband at the couple's wedding.

One headline referred to it as the "Judas Kiss". The prosecution had alleged that Michelle's jealousy of Mrs Shaughnessy, 21, who was stabbed 54 times, had been a motive for murder.

Michelle was at home with flu yesterday but Lisa said after the hearing: "We are not out to see editors go to jail. I just want justice to be done not just for my sister and myself but for all those other people in jail who have things written about them that are not true."

Media, page 23



Gida Ratner, left, accused of theft from Eleanor Berry

## Former policeman wins libel case

By Lin Jenkins

A RETIRED police chief won a libel action yesterday over allegations that he sexually abused boys at a children's home and was involved in "jending" them to convicted paedophiles.

The jurors, who were told that former superintendent Gordon Anglessea was seeking "massive damages", will decide the amount today.

Mr Anglessea, 57, had claimed that his dreams of a happy retirement after 34 years were "shattered by the filthiest lies imaginable". Newspaper reports and a television programme about child abuse in North Wales during the late 1970s and early 1980s accused him of sexually abusing small boys.

The jury found, by a major-

ity of 10-2, that Mr Anglessea had been libelled by the *Independent on Sunday*, *The Observer*, *Private Eye* and *ITV*. His wife Sandra, 47, who had broken down in tears while giving evidence during the High Court hearing, sobbed with relief in her husband's arms when the jury delivered its verdict after ten hours of deliberation. Mr Anglessea, of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, said: "We are delighted with the verdict."

Ian Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*, looked grimfaced at the decision and declined to comment afterwards.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, for Mr Anglessea, said the allegations were "a poison that polluted the lives of Mr Anglessea and his family". He

showed jurors a photograph of the former policeman with his daughter Elizabeth, the "apple of his eye", who died of a heart defect before her fifth birthday. "This is the man they say is a pervert," he said.

During the three-week trial Mr Anglessea had been confronted by three men who alleged he had sexually abused them as boys at Bryn Estyn community home in Wrexham. George Carman, QC, counsel for the newspapers, asked Mr Anglessea if he recognised them. He replied that, to the best of his recollection, he had never seen them before. One of the men alleged that a number of senior policemen and other "prominent" people had been involved.

The home was closed in 1984. Peter Howarth, the deputy principal, and a housemaster, Stephen Norris, were jailed for ten years and seven years respectively for sex offences after a police inquiry into complaints from former residents. No charges were brought against Mr Anglessea and two other police officers that had been named.

Mr Anglessea told Mr Justice Drake and the jury that he made only occasional visits to Bryn Estyn to issue cautions to boys. He vehemently denied the claims of sex abuse.

The allegations, which amounted to "trial by the media", had made him feel like a leper in his community, he said. Lord Williams said: "He deserves a very high award indeed to nail the lie."

Elementary fraud at Holmes museum

By Lin Jenkins

THE case of the fraudulent founder of the Sherlock Holmes museum awaits its denouement after the central character was convicted of fraud at Southwark Crown Court yesterday.

John Aidiniantz, a company director, swindled building societies in a £12 million mortgage fraud. Judge Martineau, who adjourned the case for reports, told him: "There is a very serious likelihood of you facing a custodial sentence in due course." After the hearing Aidiniantz insisted that he was innocent and said that he planned to appeal.

The jury deliberated for two hours before delivering verdicts on the eight charges of obtaining property by deception. They related to mortgages taken out between 1986 and 1990 on three properties in London, one of which was the Baker Street townhouse converted into 221B, the fictional home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective.



Peter Cushing in the role of Sherlock Holmes

£890,000 on the Sherlock Holmes museum building and £228,000 from a house in Battersea, south London. A further £100,000 was obtained on a flat in Stockwell, south London, under the name Peter Neville.

Aidiniantz, who represented himself, claimed that he had not misled anyone and had chosen not to answer some questions on mortgage application forms because they were not relevant.

He was remanded on conditional bail for pre-sentence reports and is due to be sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, in the new year.

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Growing up in the movies

GILES WHITTELL ON HOLLYWOOD KIDS

IN THE MAGAZINE

SUPERB SKI DRIVE SAVINGS

IN WEEKEND



# Windsor oil hunt strikes reservoir of discontent

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THERE was little stomach on the streets of Windsor yesterday for the historic borough becoming the Dallas of Royal Berkshire. Residents expressed surprise that their best-known citizen had agreed to exploration under Windsor Castle which, surveys suggest, may be sitting on top of enough oil to fill 100 million barrels.

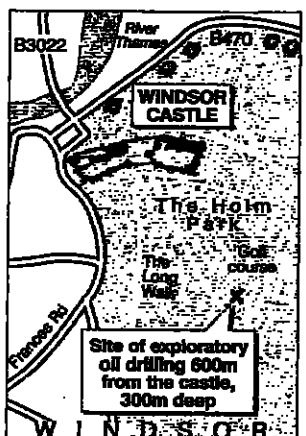
But an invasion of stetsons, Texan boots and nodding donkeys is still some way off.

"The Queen doesn't live here as much as we do," said James Cozens, a marketing consultant queuing at a bank cash dispenser near the castle. "Oil development would spoil the whole feel of Windsor. People don't come here from America to see oil rigs; and we have quite enough environmental pollution already with the aircraft overhead."

Outside the Castle Hotel Yvette Elson, a housewife from nearby Staines, sniffed the cold, clear air and worried about the stench of oil. "How are they going to get it out? Endless road tankers? The area is congested enough as it

is. They have done a lot to improve Windsor; they should not allow development like this."

Windsor's fears may be a little premature. A planning application from Canuck, a Buckinghamshire drilling company, to be put before Berkshire County Council on January 4, seeks permission to site a 60ft rig on the back of a lorry in Windsor Great Park, 800 yards southeast of the castle and 200 yards east of



The Long Walk. It would stand between the private golf course and the cricket ground.

The rig would be partially screened by trees but would still be visible to walkers in the Great Park and to the Queen from her upstairs windows. Windsor and Maidenhead Council, which has unanimously opposed the drilling application, is concerned that a rig would destroy the views of the park, and would be sited not only in Green Belt land but in an area designated as being of special landscape importance.

But the local council's role is purely advisory on mineral drilling applications, and it has no powers to stop the county council granting permission.

John Colby, director of planning for Windsor and Maidenhead, said yesterday: "A drilling rig is going to have a damaging visual impact on the castle. But we are much more worried about the infrastructure that would go with it, and what would happen if extraction began on a commercial scale." Windsor was

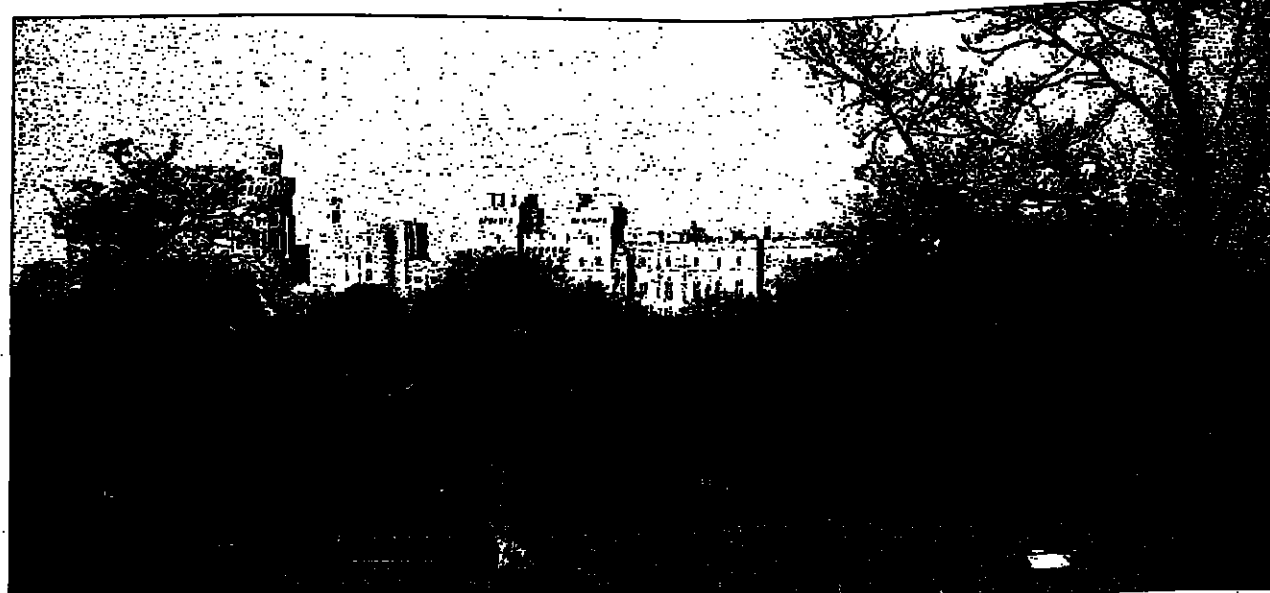
anxious to protect its heritage, and oil exploration would run contrary to all efforts to improve the town's environment.

If the application is granted next month, Canuck will have eight weeks in which to strike black gold. Commercial extraction will require a new planning application, but by the use of lateral drilling techniques, the wellhead could be sited several miles away.

Dr Desmond Oswald, the Canadian head of Canuck, said yesterday that everything in the park would be restored to its former condition after exploration had finished, and that the operation would create no more smell of oil than the average garage.

Dennis Outwin, mayor of Windsor, disagrees. "I do not believe you can get 100 million barrels of oil out through a small pipeline. It is bound to lead to Windsor Great Park being turned almost into a second Dallas. I feel the Queen, whom I greatly admire... has been badly advised."

Diary, page 18



Windsor Castle as seen from near Shawfarm Gate. The proposed drilling site is behind the trees, to the right

## Geologists fear castle subsidence

BY NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

LAND around Windsor Castle may suffer subsidence if the plans to drill for oil are approved, geologists said yesterday.

Seismic studies indicate that there could be between 50 and 100 million barrels of oil near the castle at a depth of 330 yards. Production worth up to £1 billion could start within five years if planning permission is granted.

One expert at the British Geological Survey said yesterday that a depth of 330

yards was "really rather shallow. If oil was extracted below my house at that depth, I would be looking for cracks."

Donald Beer, chairman of Berkshire County Council's planning committee, said: "If there is oil to be found, we will have to be very careful. We will look at all the environmental aspects and discuss them with the appropriate environmental agencies."

Desmond Oswald, managing director of the would-be driller Canuck Exploration, said that subsidence was "highly unlikely, if not impossible". He also rejected reports that his company want-

ed to drill next to the castle walls; the site was 800 yards southeast of the castle.

The oil, if it is there, is believed to be trapped in Jurassic layers, dating from between 210 million and 145 million years ago. Oil and gas have been found in similar geological formations running down the East Coast through Lincolnshire, into the Home Counties and along the South Coast. The oil is likely to be trapped between grains of sandstone, rather like water in a sponge. Extracting it could make the "sponge" shrink, causing the thin layer of land above to sink several inches.



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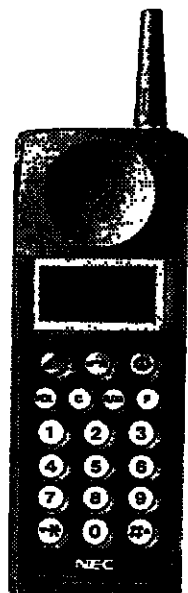
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## Parents urged to break cycle of childhood abuse

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MANY of today's adults grew up in homes where beatings were common and children were regularly humiliated to keep them in their place, a charity says today.

Abusive and harmful behaviour was a part of everyday life for thousands who are now making the same mistakes with their own children, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children says. Launching a three-year campaign to change public attitudes to children, the NSPCC says many parents were damaged by their childhood experiences. Reducing the harm caused by family life is the best way of preventing future abuse.

An NSPCC survey of 1,000 adults aged up to 45 found that a third had been beaten with a strap, belt or shoe and a quarter were made to go without food as a punishment. Almost half had witnessed physical violence between those caring for them.

Most of the parents showed themselves to be more open and tolerant with their child-

ren. More than nine out of ten said children who misbehaved should be reasoned with rather than punished. However, 7 per cent thought it justified to beat them with a strap, belt or shoe and 5 per cent would do so with a stick. Eight per cent thought it acceptable to make children go hungry, 16 per cent to threaten them with some kind of 'bogymen' and 21 per cent to 'send them to Coventry'.

The NSPCC says physical punishment sets a bad example, was unfair and ineffective. It wants a national strategy against child abuse, coordinated by the Government. Men are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than women, according to a poll carried out for the BBC television programme *Here and Now* tonight. The MORI poll of 1,800 people who had had a heterosexual relationship showed 18 per cent of men said they had been attacked by their partner compared with 13 per cent of women. The attacks ranged from a slap to being hit with a heavy object.

## Clinton in Christmas debut for BBC radio

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Clinton makes his debut appearance as an interview guest on BBC radio this Christmas in a Radio 2 programme based on the Walt Disney archives.

He will introduce a show containing musical highlights from Disney films. A BBC spokeswoman said that the programme had been made by the Disney company and would be broadcast exclusively by the BBC in Britain.

President Clinton reminisces about his first winter in Oxford as a 22-year-old student when he faced the prospect of Christmas away from his mother. "Unbeknownst to her, I arranged to come back home for Christmas and was able to surprise her," he says.

The programme is part of BBC Radio's Christmas schedule, which it hopes will win back some of the audience share it has lost to commercial radio stations. This year, for the first time in its history, the BBC's share of radio listening slipped below 50 per cent.

On Radio 4 Dame Diana Rigg, Sir Dirk Bogarde and Bill Paterson lead the cast in Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen*. Tom Stoppard has dramatised *Three Men in a Boat* for radio and David Suchet will read an eight-part adaptation of *The Willows in Winter*. William Horwood's "sequel" to *The Wind in the Willows*. Radio 3 will broadcast the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas afternoon, followed in the evening by *Dr Johnson's Christmas*, an evening of plays about Johnson.

Radio, page 46

## Eyre denies 'jumping ship' at National

BY DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD EYRE confirmed yesterday that he will step down as director of the National Theatre in September 1997. He said: "I'm not jumping ship. I thought after 10 years somebody else should have a go." He intends to devote himself to making films, writing and working in the theatre.

He was speaking at a conference arranged to announce the highlights of next year's programme at the National. Two of his potential successors, Sir Ian McKellen and Fyrlida Lloyd, will be involved in the programme.

Eyre said: "I have seen a number of names canvassed and I haven't yet thought it's a good idea to go down to William Hill to see what sort of money I can get on."

Leading article, page 19

## Bentley's buy and sell the loveliest jewellery

Bentley & Company, the antique jewellers of Bond Street, are seeking to increase their stock of antique and fine period jewellery and silver by buying privately. Enquiries are treated with courtesy and discretion by their buyer at 8 New Bond Street, London W1. For an illustrated compendium of their exquisite pieces for sale, please telephone 071-629 0651.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY  
OBITUARIES

Professor Sir Norman Anderson, OBE, QC, Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in the University of London, 1958-76. Died on December 2 aged 80. He was born on September 29, 1918.

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PERSON

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
BLUTHROPP PIANO SALE  
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## War veteran puts courts martial in the dock

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A FALKLANDS War veteran jailed after suffering a mental breakdown and holding colleagues at gunpoint is bringing a test challenge today to the court martial system.

Alexander Findlay, a former Scots Guards sergeant, has lodged a case before the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg that could spell the end of the present system of courts martial.

Mr Findlay, 33, was jailed for two years by an army court in November 1991 despite medical evidence of his nervous breakdown and pleas for leniency. An army psychiatrist said he was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder because of seeing colleagues killed and wounded in the battle for Mount Tumbledown in 1982. Earlier this year Mr Findlay won £100,000 from the Ministry of Defence for the disorder.

At the hearing before the European Commission of Human Rights, he will argue that courts martial are in breach of human rights and they are not an independent or impartial tribunal.

Lawyers for Mr Findlay, of Kilmarnock, Strathclyde, say that the procedures denied him a fair hearing in breach of article six of the Convention on Human Rights. In particular, they will say that the system is unfair because one officer directs where the trial should take place, decides what charges should be put, appoints and controls the prosecutor and appoints the

members of the court who try the accused.

There are about 200 courts martial every year. The sentencing regime, either a fine or jail sentence, is limited and takes no account of mental conditions. Also, there is no proper appeal process.

Mr Findlay was serving in Northern Ireland in 1990 when he became depressed after suffering a back injury in a fall after being ordered to climb a weak rope. Later, after drinking heavily, he held members of his unit at pistol point and threatened to kill himself and some of them. He fired two shots, not aimed at colleagues, before giving himself up.

Mr Findlay was examined by two psychiatrists who urged his court martial to extend the utmost leniency in view of his mental breakdown.

His lawyers had urged that he not be tried by court martial because of his mental condition and the fact that the hearing could not take it into account. His sentence was decided in private and no reason for it was given in open court or in any form available to Mr Findlay.

The case has been brought before the European Commission because in 1992 the High Court refused Mr Findlay leave to appeal against the finding of the court martial. The court held that it had been conducted in accordance with the Army Act 1955 and its rules of procedure, and could not be challenged as there was no procedure for appeal.

## Soldier wins MC for saving villagers

By A Staff Reporter

A BRITISH Army officer who risked his life protecting Cambodian villagers from Khmer Rouge guerrillas received the Military Cross from the Prince of Wales yesterday.

Captain Richard Williams, 26, saved the lives of at least 100 civilians and helped more than 5,000 others during his work with the United Nations. His actions led to the Khmer Rouge putting a bounty of about £330 on his head.

After his investiture at Buckingham Palace yesterday, Captain Williams, a Welsh Guardsman, said: "Anyone would have done the same in my position. Things were very tense in Cambodia and I was extremely nervous, but I just got on with it."

He was a lieutenant when he volunteered for a seven-month tour as a military observer based in the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Kom-



Captain Williams, his parents and a friend at the Palace. The MC citation praised his "inspired conduct"

pong Thom in November 1992. Within two weeks he was taken hostage and held for four days.

On his release he organised medical assistance for villagers, treating gunshot wounds, dressing injuries and helping with malaria prevention. When two of his UN colleagues were

stopped at gunpoint and forced to drive to a Khmer Rouge camp, he was refused armed help to mount a rescue bid, so he freed them by his own efforts.

On another occasion he and seven Indonesian soldiers were ambushed by 25 Khmer Rouge guerrillas armed with rocket-powered

grenades. The Indonesian commander delayed in leading a counter-attack, so Captain Williams took control and flushed out the guerrillas, killing four while avoiding any injuries to his party.

He is now based at the School of Infantry in Warminster, Wiltshire, after a tour of duty in Northern

Ireland. The citation for his Military Cross reads: "His inspired conduct and magnificent example were in the very highest tradition of the service."

□ Garry Schofield, a former Great Britain rugby league captain, received the insignia yesterday to an OBE awarded for services to the game.

## Verdict on peaceful protest overturned

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A VETERAN campaigner won a High Court victory yesterday which established that protesters who do not commit or threaten violence cannot be brought before the courts for breach of the peace.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Mr Justice Collins ruled that Linda Percy, a peace protester from Bradford, had been wrongly jailed for 14 days by magistrates after repeatedly trespassing on Alconbury air force base. Mr Justice Collins said yesterday: "In our judgment, breach of the peace is limited to violence or threats of violence. There had to be a real risk, not a mere possibility, of a breach of the peace."

The court was giving reasons for its decision last month that Ms Percy would not have to serve the remaining five days of the jail term imposed in September 1992. Ms Percy, a health visitor, said afterwards: "I think breach of the peace is used in a very wide way. The right to peaceful protest is a tradition in this country."



Chelsea with her parents Steven and Angela Jeakins

## Parents hold early Christmas for dying daughter

By A Staff Reporter

A YOUNG couple held an early Christmas for their 20-month-old daughter after learning that she had only a few days to live.

Steven and Angela Jeakins watched Chelsea, who has leukaemia, open her presents and eat Christmas dinner. Mrs Jeakins, of Henbury, Bristol, said yesterday: "We had bought her lots of toys and we wanted her to be able to play with them for as long as possible. It was a wonderful day and we took lots of photographs."

"In the evening, when Chelsea went to sleep, I cried my eyes out. But at least she had a good time, and we will always have the pictures to remind us how happy she was."

Chelsea became ill in September and blood tests revealed acute myeloid leukaemia. She was taken to the

Bristol Hospital for Sick Children and had weeks of chemotherapy, but staff concluded that the chances of a cure were virtually nil.

Her father, an electrician, deferred a course in electronics to help his wife and their other children, Adam, 8, Ross, 5, and Matt, 4, to decorate the house for an early Christmas.

Mrs Jeakins said: "She loved it and raced around all day laughing. For a few hours we forgot she was ill but in the evening it all came flooding back. We've told our children that Chelsea is dying and it was a strain for us. Chelsea is too young to understand. She just enjoyed herself and played with all her toys."

"I hope we can cope at the end and be strong for Chelsea." The family has no plans to celebrate December 25 but instead will take a holiday.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

**Sponger  
wealthy**

**Budget del  
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to the high s**

Business approach to shop-  
ping worried during what  
is the busiest time. Janet Bush re-

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**Turkeys under  
price of pet f**

**By ROBIN YOUNG**

CHRISTMAS markets are the cheapest pound for pound bird bought in the year, but tonight while the contents of my head are more than 70p a lb are being offered to customers by the £10 as 20p a lb.

But while downers and so-called German chains and A&Cs are selling some £15 years ago produce of premium-quality birds, at prices well above that of other chickens higher.

It is the difference between a cheap-cut second-hand event and a first-class one, said Henry Wilson, 7000, who said he was not surprised and hand-plucked birds to butchers. In a recent blizzard with a puny majority could not tell between them.

The turkey started as Christmas to be a death, medium-size price.

Daniel Joffe of the British Association, said: "I have been a year that the turkey is a shoring."

Bernard Norfolk said: "I have been 44 years old. In all my life, I have never known competitive level before."



# Sponger who bludgeoned wealthy parents gets life

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SON who battered to death his elderly and dotting parents with a steak mallet after they refused to lend him any more money was jailed for life yesterday.

After less than two hours' deliberation, a jury at Nottingham Crown Court found Roger Severs, 38, guilty of murdering Derek Severs, 68, and Eileen, 69, at their bungalow. Severs walked from the dock loosening his tie after the unanimous verdicts.

His father, a retired ICI executive, and mother, who was made an MBE for her charity work, were found in a shallow woodland grave. They had disappeared from their £300,000 home in the village of Hambleton, Leicestershire, on November 13 last year.

Severs, the couple's only son, bludgeoned his mother to death then lay in wait for his father and killed him in the same way. The couple's skulls were broken and their bodies bundled into the family car — Mr Severs on the back seat and his wife in the boot — and driven to their grave.

Severs, described by John Goldring, QC, for the prosecution, as "an habitual liar" with

no permanent job and a string of failed relationships, denied murder and claimed he was guilty only of manslaughter, on the ground of diminished responsibility. Mr Goldring had told the court Severs was "quite unlike his parents" and "perennially short" of money. "The defendant knew his parents had money and, you may conclude, was frequently asking for money to set up some business venture or another." Once, after a failed suicide attempt, he wrote a note to his mother claiming that she would sooner help other people than her son.

Severs claimed in court that

he and his parents had spent an evening and all the next day arguing over his plan to return to a former girlfriend. "I was expressing my emotions to them more than I had ever done, and they were both exceedingly worried. ... I went to the garage, drank a lot of whisky and took 20 tablets. I felt real despair, my life was going nowhere."

Later the family began to prepare a meal of steak, chips and salad. Severs said that as he tenderised the meat with the mallet the argument became increasingly heated. "I thought they were both being unfair to me. My mind was in

confusion, in turmoil. My mother went to the bathroom to run a bath. I followed her in, and we continued to argue.

"Somewhere in it all I struck her with the steak mallet — I don't recall how many times. It all happened exceedingly quickly. I don't think I realised what was happening. I ran straight outside. I have no idea why. My father came out and said: 'What's going on?' I then just lashed out."

After the verdict Doug Clements, a former landlord of the village pub who had known Mr and Mrs Severs for 17 years, said: "Roger was a great worry to both of them, driving them to the depths of despair. Their son lived at the bungalow only 'when he was in trouble or after he had parted from a woman. This is what happened the last time, but Derek told him: 'We're too old. You've got to stand on your own two feet'."

"Roger was a bighead and a liar. He used his father's and mother's positions for his own benefit. He traded off their popularity and he fed off their success. Derek and Eileen were so loyal towards him but Roger took everything from them that he could."



Derek and Eileen Severs: killed with a steak mallet



Severs with his son, Tom. He and the boy's mother split up before the murders

## Why women turn to THE TIMES

'I am a big fan of Alan Coren's column on Wednesday'

Suzanne Lambert, 22, graduate



'I turn to The Times's Arts pages first. I enjoy the theatre reviews and the Arts section provides a very good service. I also like the book reviews which are well written and entertaining — and The Times has great columnists'

More young women and men are reading The Times. This year, readership among the under-45s increased by 11.3 per cent and among women by 31 per cent, a larger gain than any other national newspaper.

## Budget delivers gloomy tidings to the high street

■ A cautious approach to shopping has left traders worried during what should be their busiest time. Janet Bush reports

HIGH Streets desperately need a bumper Christmas shopping season but Kenneth Clarke's hair-shirt Budget and the double hammer blow of higher taxes and interest rates to come in the new year are expected to leave them struggling.

The signs, as the countdown to Christmas begins, are distinctly worrying. Figures from John Lewis, the department store chain, for the week before the Budget showed that sales were a wafer thin 0.1 per cent higher than the same week last year. That provided a dismal echo to the Government's official figures for October when retail sales were only 0.1 per cent above September levels.

November sales were "dreadful" and probably no better than October's, according to James May, Director-General of the British Retail Consortium. Despite some signs of a sudden pick-up this week, he sees no let-up of the pressure on retailers in the short term. He said: "This recession has left deeper scars in the national psyche than the recession in the early 1980s. The recovery in consumer confidence is going to take much longer." Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at Mid-

land Bank, who has tracked consumer behaviour all year, sees no end to the pressure on retailers. "They will hope that by chopping prices in the January sales they will get consumers going but they have hoped that every January for three years and it hasn't happened," he said.

Everywhere you look there are reasons why consumers are fearful of splashing out. Top of the list is the nearly £7 billion of new taxes announced in the tough Lamont and Clarke Budgets of 1993 and another big squeeze on public spending announced by Mr Clarke last week.

Peter Warburton, chief economist at stockbrokers Robert Fleming, said the big question was whether the combination of these three Budgets may be more than the personal sector can bear. The tax squeeze, he said, was more severe than the famous Howe Budget of 1981 when, despite promises to the contrary, VAT was nearly doubled.

Job insecurity is another powerful disincentive to shoppers. Although official unemployment figures have been falling, creation of new jobs has been anaemic and the new positions have mostly been low paid and part-time.

The housing market, a key source of the now elusive "feel good" factor, is dead in the water. The Nationwide recently reported that house prices fell by 2.7 per cent in November compared with October and the Chancellor's Budget measures, including shaving another few per cent off mortgage interest relief, will be a further dampener. With the value of homes falling, the rise in mortgage rates after September's base rate rise and the fear of more to come is another reason for caution.



May: recession has left deep scars

Leading article, page 19

## Turkeys undercut price of pet food

By ROBIN YOUNG

CHRISTMAS turkeys are selling cheaper pound for pound than tin of pet food. Birds bought wholesale by the container load at more than 70p a lb are being offered to customers for as little as 28p a lb.

But while discounters such as the German chains Lidl and Aldi are selling frozen turkeys at prices last seen 15 years ago, producers of premium-quality fresh birds say they have plenty of takers at prices ten times higher.

"It is the difference between a clapped-out, second-hand Escort and a Mercedes," said Henry Bryant, who will be supplying 7,000 traditionally raised and hand-plucked birds to butchers. In a

recent blind test, however, with a panel of 100 people, a majority admitted they could not tell the difference between frozen and fresh.

The turkey price war has started so early that by Christmas there is likely to be a dearth of small and medium-sized birds at any price.

David Joll, chairman of the British Turkey Federation, said: "So many birds have been sold early this year that there is bound to be a shortage."

Bernard Matthews, the Norfolk turkey magnate who has been in the business 44 years, said yesterday: "In all my years I have never known the trade so competitive at the retail level before."

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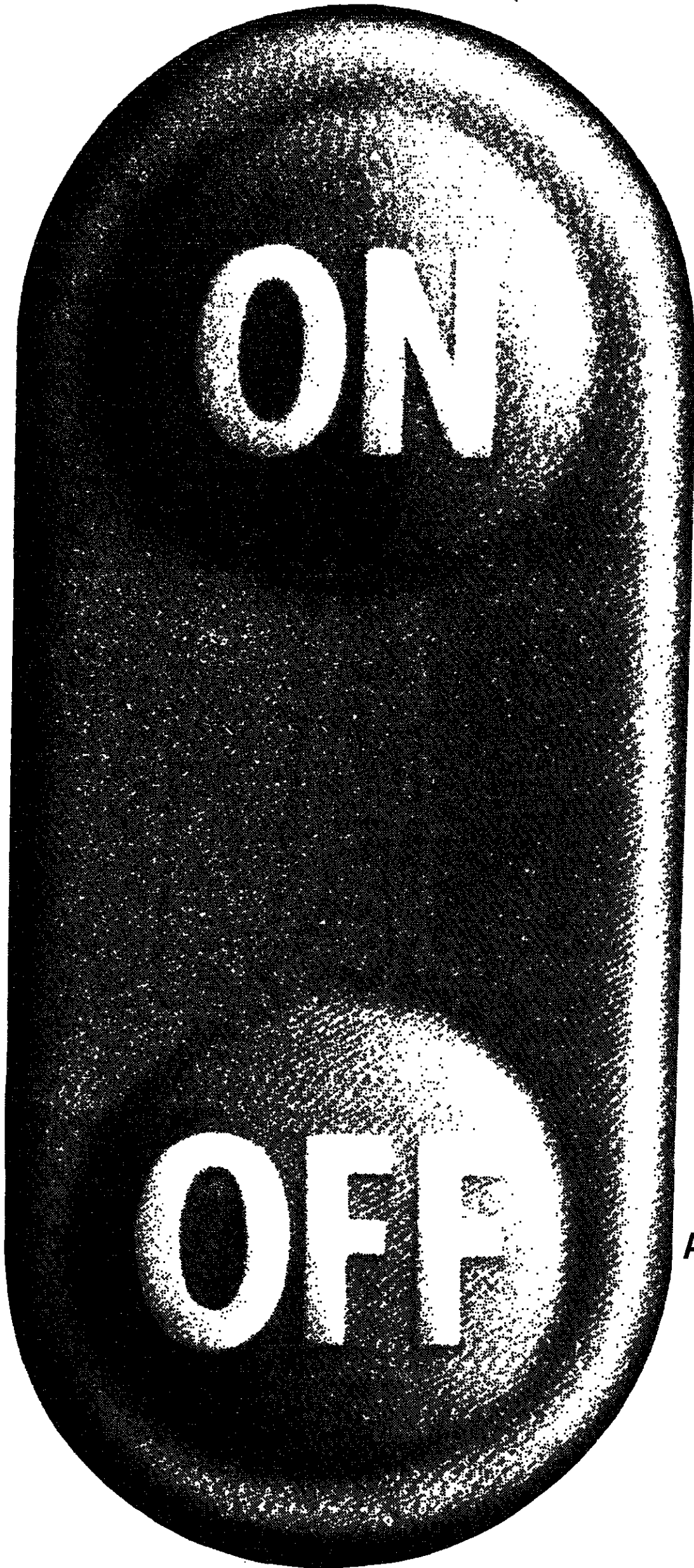
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# Scots dismiss China's claim to royal and ancient game

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE Chinese may have invented tea and gunpowder but a Chinese academic's claim that his forebears invented golf has infuriated Scottish historians.

Ling Hongling, professor of physical education at North-western Normal University in Lanxhou, says that the first written record of *chiuwan* (*chiu* means hitting and *wan* means ball) appeared in China in AD 943. The game remained popular until the 18th century and may have been exported to Europe in the Middle Ages, he says.

A paper published by Professor Ling in Australia was branded a hoax by Bobby Burnet, historian to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews. But last week the *People's Daily* in Peking reported that Professor Ling had identified three aspects of modern golf that closely resemble the Chinese version played during the Song dynasty (AD 960 to 1279).

The professor says that the Chinese game was played on wide-open grassy areas by competitors who used a stick with a bent head to hit a ball into a hole in the ground. He produced line drawings said to be taken from Chinese pottery of the 10th century to support his claim. Mr Burnet

remains unconvinced: "Anyone can produce line drawings. It means nothing. He should come up with the genuine articles. The thing that distinguishes golf is that the ball is hit into small holes. I understand the Chinese version used very large holes."

Mr Burnet said the Dutch also had a claim to the origins of golf, but their game "kolf" was played on a court or on frozen canals and the aim was to hit posts rather than holes. He insists that golf originated in Scotland, with the first documentary evidence dating from 1457 when the game was officially "cried down" because it was interfering with the need to practise archery, a much more useful pastime for warring Scots.

In 1471 the Scottish parliament decreed against football and golf and 20 years later it was outlawed for "the common gude of the realm". But by 1552 it was well established on what is now the Royal and Ancient Course, and the game of golf, golf or gowf survived to become a national obsession.

A similar level of popularity is unlikely in China: the Government has curbed the creation of golf courses, arguing that all available land is needed for farming.



Fishermen have become easy targets for thieves. Stolen fishing rods, some worth thousands of pounds, are being sold at car boot sales

## Anglers and golfers fall prey to organised thieves

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

GANGS of thieves are focusing on golf and angling, two of the country's biggest pastimes, to steal equipment worth tens of thousands of pounds.

One coarse angling team recently lost its entire tackle collection worth £30,000 after thieves broke into a parked van when the team stopped to celebrate winning a competition. A north London club has now hired a security guard to watch its equipment and other anglers regularly report thefts and burglaries.

A golfer at a Surrey club lost a set of clubs worth £3,000 after leaving them to go for a shower. Scotland Yard has launched a golf club watch, modelled on neighbourhood watches used in streets and towns, which has been set up across eight clubs around Epsom. If the scheme

is successful it could spread to cover hundreds of courses and may be taken up by other forces. Police believe many of the stolen clubs, rods and reels are sold at car boot sales, secondhand shops and through classified advertisements. Only one golf manufacturer puts serial numbers on its products and few fishing rods carry individual identification.

According to expert anglers, many coarse fishermen build up expensive kits including carbon-fibre rods worth several thousand pounds each. Rods and reels sometimes disappear while anglers are in their tents fishing overnight for carp.

In another case an angler fishing at night from a jetty on the River Blyth, Northumberland, went to investigate screams. He could not find

anyone in trouble and returned to discover that all his equipment had been taken. A spokesman for the National Federation of Anglers said thefts were reported every week and individual losses of equipment worth £5,000 to £10,000 were not unknown. Members are always advised to have adequate insurance.

The golf watch scheme being pioneered by Scotland Yard's officers was started after thefts and vandalism at clubs in the Epsom area. At one point this summer PC Tim Richardson, co-ordinating the scheme, set up volunteer patrols on some courses at night, complete with night sights.

He said many golfers took risks with their clubs, simply throwing them in the back of their cars or even leaving them outside clubhouses.

## £540m bill to beat filling station theft

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

A HI-TECH war being waged against thieves and vandals at petrol stations is costing the industry £50 million a year. The equipment is some of the most sophisticated on the market, including bullet-proof glass and time-locked safes.

The average cost is as much as £39,000 for every filling station, amounting to more than £540 million for more than 18,000 sites across the country.

The British Oil Service Station Security Committee, which represents all the big oil companies, said that filling stations had become easy prey for thieves. A study by the committee found that eight out of ten filling stations had suffered from crime, with one in four robbed in the past year. More than 40 per cent

reported cases of shoplifting. Peter Allen, head of the committee evaluating new security equipment, said: "Our problem is that we cannot have petrol stations protected by metal grilles and guard dogs so we are looking at more novel measures and technology to protect sites."

BP is spending almost £100,000 on 200 new safes with time-delayed locks, while some sites have been equipped with a system that sprays thieves with a substance known as "smart water". It is treated with a chemical that shows up under ultra-violet light.

But some companies have found that simple measures, including better lighting, extra staff and cutting the amount of cash on site, have a deterrent effect.

## Man jailed for son's bike death

A father who caused the death of his nine-year-old son when they crashed on his scrambler bike was jailed for two years and nine months.

William McNeil, who had no crash helmet, died after he hit a lamppost when his father Billy, 27, lost control of the machine, which had no brakes, in Fallin, Central.

McNeil was found guilty at Stirling Sheriff Court of causing William's death by dangerous driving. He admitted driving while banned and having no insurance.

## Train kills youth

A youth was killed when he was hit by a Cardiff to Portsmouth train travelling at 70mph in a tunnel near Bath. Police believe that the casualty may have jumped in front of the train. The driver, from Fratton, Hampshire, suffered severe shock.

## Pets beheaded

Police have warned pet owners in Plymouth after the body of a fourth headless rabbit was found in a back garden. A month ago three rabbits were killed in two nights at nearby homes. A police spokesman said the culprit needed help from a therapist.

## A peal for help

Fifty women at a Mothers' Union meeting at a church in Beer, Devon, who found themselves trapped after the verger mistakenly locked up, rang the church bells to get help.

## Firebomb found

A firebomb was found strapped under a Mercedes car by a mechanic at a Manchester garage. Army experts defused the device after the garage was evacuated.

## Name that hall

Manchester's new 2,400-seat concert venue is to be called the Bridgewater Hall. The £50 million hall, which will be home to the Hallé Orchestra, is due to open in 1996.

## Colliery quake

An earthquake measuring 2.2 on the Richter scale was recorded below Stillingfleet pit, North Yorkshire, by the British Geological Survey's centre at Edinburgh.



Mary Queen of Scots playing at St Andrews in 1563

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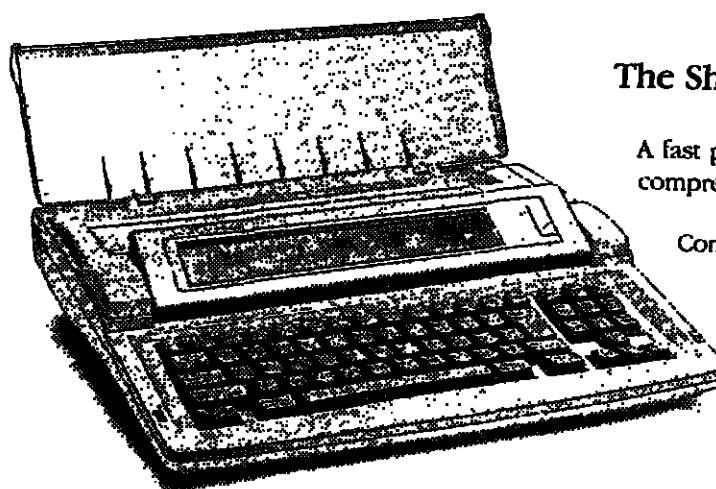
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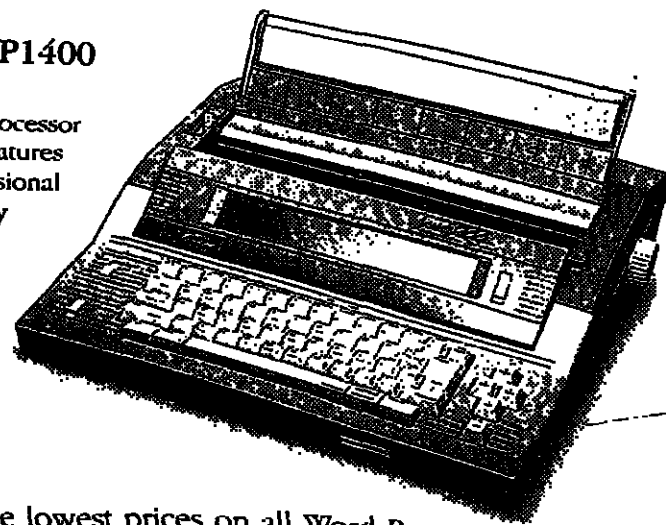


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## Nolan committee must avoid risk of being too reasonable

What would British politicians and journalists say if three members of the Cabinet had to resign this year as a result of corruption scandals and one was in prison, while a commission set up by the Prime Minister had concluded that "little by little the notion of public service has been eroded"? And the commission has recommended, among 27 proposals for "the moralisation of public life", that companies should be banned from making political donations. If all this had happened here, the Major Government might have collapsed and we would probably already have a new Prime Minister. Yet that is what has occurred this year in France and Eduard

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Balladur, the Prime Minister, remains a strong candidate to become President next year.

The report of the Rozès commission is a refreshing example for the Nolan committee's enquiry into standards in British public life. Lord Nolan said yesterday at a news conference that the committee would be studying the experience in France and other European countries (America, Ireland and Australia (especially Queensland)). But will they be as willing to challenge conventional practices and norms as their French counterparts?

The Nolan enquiry embodies the British establishment and its traditions of public service. Not only are its members the good and great made flesh, but its 22-page paper yesterday on "Issues and Questions" to be addressed in its first report next spring would win praise from any permanent secretary for its scrupulous balance. Every suggestion about a reform is matched by the possible objections. Lord Nolan and his colleagues showed yesterday in their comments — and in their paper — that they recognise the extent of current public concerns in their three priority areas of MPs and peers' interests, ministers and civil servants' hospitality and appointments after leaving office, and the

membership and conduct of quangos. They raise the right issues about how far, for example, MPs should be able to take outside interests, as well as possible changes in disclosure and controls.

The Opposition has criticised the absence of the terms of reference of the funding of political parties. But yesterday's paper skirts around it in relation to the 42,000-plus appointments to quangos and other public bodies by ministers. Is it the paper asks, a politically neutral process? Should it be a politically neutral process? Or does the Government in power have a right to make at least senior appointments to people who endorse its policies? Should there be a class of appoint-

ments which are explicitly political, whose holders leave office on a change of government?

These are all reasonable questions, but there is a risk of being too reasonable, too understanding. A whiff of radicalism would be reassuring. The committee sounds too wary of Parliament in its comment that "fundamental constitutional issues apply to any proposal which would limit the right of the two Houses of Parliament to regulate their own internal affairs. Only compelling circumstances would call for such a proposal. Have these circumstances now arisen?" MPs can be relied upon to defend their rights energetically enough without the help of the Nolan enquiry.

The danger is that well-intentioned fairness will result in a series of cautious recommendations tinkering at the edges of the status quo. That would waste a unique opportunity to provide reassurance to the public. The Nolan enquiry should be bolder, both in its oral evidence taking sessions from the middle of January until the end of February, and in its report. Its paper refers to broader issues of accountability and scrutiny of holders of public offices. The enquiry needs to address them as well as the specific allegations. A little Gallic flair and imagination, as well as the sober virtues of British public service, are required.

PETER RIDDELL

## Inquiry may call Major and Thatcher

By Jonathan Prynn

JOHN MAJOR and Baroness Thatcher may be asked to give evidence before the Nolan committee's inquiry into standards in public life.

The committee will meet on Tuesday to decide on a preliminary list of people it would like to call as witnesses. Most of the committee's sessions are expected to be held in public with television cameras almost certainly allowed in.

Lord Nolan, the chairman, said yesterday that no "particular individual" had been ruled out as a witness. The committee cannot, however, compel anyone to attend.

Allegations against individuals, such as the Tory MPs at the centre of the cash for questions row, will not be investigated. Witnesses could ask to be heard in private but such a request would not necessarily be granted.

The committee, which is expected to start taking oral evidence in mid-January, has received 1,000 written submissions from the public. Its first report is expected in March.

Yesterday it published a document, *Issues and Questions*, outlining the following main areas for inquiry and the names of the committee members who will examine them.

- Outside interests of and influences on MPs and peers, including the role of lobbyists.
- (Sir Clifford Boulton, former clerk of the Commons; Diana Warwick, chief executive for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy; Anthony King, Professor of Government, Essex University)

- Gifts and hospitality received by ministers and senior civil servants and offers of employment received by former ministers from private sector firms they previously had official dealings with.
- (Lord Thomson of Monifieth, former chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Association; Tom King, former Tory Defence Secretary; Sir Martin Jacobson, merchant banker and chairman of the British Council)

- The method of appointment to and accountability of quangos and health trusts.
- (Peter Shore, former Labour cabinet minister; Dame Anne Warburton, former ambassador to the UN in Geneva; Sir William Ullrich, chairman of the National Institute for Social Work)

Copies of the document may be obtained free by telephoning 071 270 6455.

## Buoyant Heseltine mocks Blair's policy 'U-turns'

By Alice Thomson and Jonathan Prynn

THE President of the Board of Trade ignored the row over VAT on domestic fuel in the House yesterday to launch a blistering attack on Tony Blair.

Accusing the Labour leader of having no integrity, Michael Heseltine said that he had made a U-turn on every one of his personal policies. Where once he was anti-European, anti-privatisation and against grant maintained schools, he now seemed to have espoused support for all three. Even his children were now "tiny Tory tots" after his decision to send his eldest son Euan to the London Oratory School, which has opted out of local authority control.

Opening the last day of the budget debate, a buoyant Mr Heseltine told the House that Britain had the best prospect in decades for a real improvement in living standards. Hailing the Chancellor's package as part of a long-term strategy to promote sustained growth, he said: "This was a Budget that concentrated on securing a healthy, lasting recovery. It offers the best prospect that the British people have faced for decades to enjoy the benefits of growth that doesn't pass through illusory boom to painful bust.

"Our priority is to ensure that sustained low inflation-

ary growth, which is our best chance of delivering the higher living standards that our people expect and deserve."

The Labour MP Dennis Skinner interrupted Mr Heseltine's rosy picture of the economy to ask: "If all the trends are in the right direction, why do we need this extra percentage on VAT on fuel?"

Mr Heseltine retorted: "Because the Government is determined to maintain the disciplines that have enabled my Chancellor to produce a Budget that has gained the confidence of the markets and which is an essential prerequisite to maintain the growth on which prosperity depends."

Forced into mentioning VAT, the President of the Board of Trade continued: "Under the last Labour government, electricity prices had risen by 22 per cent in five years, while under the Conservatives, even allowing for the full impact of VAT, it had been 17.5 per cent over 15 years."

He told the House that the average gas consumer has benefited from a fall in real prices since privatisation of 23 per cent before VAT.

"A rough calculation shows that the average domestic gas bill in the last year before privatisation was £422 in today's money. Including the

full effects of VAT, today that average bill would be £382."

The leading Tory Euro-sceptic MP Bill Cash received similar treatment when he blamed the imposition of VAT on fuel on the Government's "stubborn" refusal to leave the exchange-rate mechanism earlier.

Mr Heseltine said that to listen to Mr Cash's "repetitious" speeches "one would think the whole of human history started and ended on our leaving the ERM."

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Trade Secretary, mocked Mr Heseltine's failure to mention VAT on fuel. "Quite clearly whatever you came here to do today, it was not to defend the Chancellor's decision to impose 17.5 per cent VAT on fuel bills," he told Mr Heseltine. "If it had not been for my intervention, you probably wouldn't have touched on the issue at all."

He praised the Tory VAT rebels for sticking to the commitments on tax they made at the last general election, unlike the "hypocrites" on the government front bench. He urged the rebels to hold Labour defeat the "unjust proposal and oblige the government to think again."

Leading article, page 19

## Labour blocks Benn's dismissal

By Arthur Leathley  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs are throwing the Commons cash-for-questions inquiry into further confusion by pressing for a Tory to be removed from the investigating Privileges Committee.

As MPs prepare for a Commons debate on the removal from the committee of Tony Benn, his Labour colleagues claim that the Government's new status as a minority administration means it should surrender its majority on the committee.

The committee, investigating claims that two Tory MPs were ready to accept £1,000 each to ask Commons questions, has a Tory majority of one. The removal of the party whip from nine Tory MPs has reduced the Government's overall majority and Labour MPs say that the Commons has the power to alter the balance of the Privileges Committee.

Yesterday's meeting of the committee was postponed after the Commons repeatedly failed to pass a motion removing Mr Benn for publishing details of proceedings held in private. The committee has recommended that he be removed but each time the matter has been due for approval by the Commons, Labour MPs have used procedural ploys to block his expulsion.

The Commons will now



have to stage a full debate on the expulsion, during which Labour MPs will call for similar action to be taken against one Tory member.

It is nearly six months since the inquiry was set up. But the committee has been embroiled in procedural wrangling and has failed to reach agreement on whether

to hold the hearings in private or in public.

In a separate development on a parallel cash-for-questions inquiry, Labour members stepped up pressure to force Tory MPs to hold public hearings. Labour MPs on the Commons Members' Interests Committee threatened to boycott the

inquiry into allegations against Neil Hamilton, the former minister accused of failing to declare hotel accommodation provided by Mohamed Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods. They said yesterday that they would withdraw from the committee if Mr Al-Fayed is not called to give evidence.

## Scots MPs denounce Budget

SCOTTISH Labour MPs have denounced big cuts in spending on roads, housing and the arts in Scotland as a Budget "mugging".

The cuts were announced yesterday by Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, who said a "very fair settlement" in the Budget had increased its spending power by 1 per cent, or £250 million, over previous plans. It would bring public spending in Scotland next year to £6,200 a head.

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said Scotland faced the "hammer blow" of a 4 per cent real-terms cut in spending over the next three years.

## Tory MP attacks royal 'nonentities'

By Alice Thomson  
POLITICAL REPORTER

A SENIOR Tory backbencher last night accused the Royal Family of being "well-born nonentities" and branded ministers "a pack of demented corgis" over their refusal to contemplate reforming the monarchy.

George Walden, a former Tory minister, threw his support behind suggestions for a slimmed-down Scandinavian style monarchy made this week by Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary.

Mr Walden's comments came during Commons question time after Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, condemned Mr Straw's proposals to reform the monarchy and the House of Lords as

"almost unbelievable". Mr Walden, MP for Buckingham, asked him whether deference to royalty was expected from all Tory MPs and questioned why ministers were getting so worked up over the issue.

He said: "Do you think when an MP makes proposals concerning the constitution, it is either grown-up politics or intelligent politics for ministers to hunt him like a pack of demented corgis?"

As Labour cheered, Mr Walden continued: "Do you think that we, as a party, can hope to reconcile the encouragement of indiscriminate deference towards well-born nonentities with our policy of encouraging the promotion of social talent in this country?"

An astonished Mr Newton protested that Labour had



Walden: backs Labour on reforming monarchy

greatly underestimated the strength of public support for the monarchy and for the House of Lords. Several Labour MPs have expressed private fears that Mr Straw has gone too far. Later Mr

Walden said he believed that the Tory party was completely out of touch with public sentiment over the Royal Family, especially the conduct of some of its minor members.

"The sneering Tory responses to Mr Straw's recent proposals seem to me unintelligent and dated," he said. "I have no doubt they will ricochet on the Tories. If Labour play their cards right they are on to a vote winner at the next general election."

"We all like the Queen and I am quite happy to leave her in her palace with a carriage or two but the rest of them must shrink and it would be sensible to do away with hereditary peers' votes if we are going to be a party that encourages talent rather than connections."

## Ministers braced for repeat rebellion

By Jill Sherman  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government faces yet another rebellion over Europe today as it tries to complete the final stages of the European finance Bill.

Several Tory rebels have indicated that they may support a Labour amendment calling for a further debate on EC fraud before the Bill comes into force.

Michael Morris, the Deputy Speaker, will decide today which amendments should be accepted during the committee stage of the Bill and whether any of them would be wrecking measures.

The Prime Minister has made clear that any amendments that substantially alter the Bill will become confidence issues. He has said that the Bill has to pass "in all its essentials".

Labour sources claimed that none of the three amendments tabled by the Labour front bench would in themselves wreck the Bill. They said that if passed the amendments would merely delay the measure until a debate had taken place, which could be done in the next few weeks.

However, one source indicated that the party might then decide to put down an amendment to any government resolution for debate, which could ultimately wreck the Bill. This was exactly the same tactic used over the Maastricht Bill, which led to a confidence motion in July 1993.

A defeat for the Government this week is unlikely as the Ulster Unionists will probably support them, as they did on the second reading last week. The Liberal Democrats may abstain on the Labour amendments, and will abstain on the third reading. Labour will also abstain on the third reading.

Some of the Euro-rebels who had the whip withdrawn for failing to support the Government last week are said to be prepared to vote with Labour again on this issue.

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: Commons questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister, who was represented by Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, were followed by the fifth day of the Budget debate. Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, opened for the Government, and Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Trade Secretary, opened for the Opposition. Andrew Smith, the Shadow Chief Secretary, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, wound up the debate.

In the Lords, the Government's White Paper on the future of the BBC was debated.

TODAY: In the Commons, Scottish questions will be followed by the first of two days' consideration of the committee and other stages of the European Communities (Finance) Bill.

In the Lords, there will be debates on small and medium-sized manufacturers and on the War Crime (Supplementary Provisions) Bill, which is due to receive its second reading.

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## Rifkind meets squadron who swapped Windsor Castle for schoolhouse on front line



Mr Rifkind listens to Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Defence Staff Chief, at a news conference in Split, Croatia

FROM MICHAEL EVANS  
IN MAGLAI

TRANSFERRED from ceremonial duties at Windsor Castle to the war zone at Maglaj in Bosnia-Herzegovina, D Squadron of the Household Cavalry Regiment yesterday showed Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, why their base remains one of the most dangerous frontline towns.

Ever since Maglaj's nine-month siege was lifted last year, the Muslim community here has continued to live in fear of the Serb guns just a short distance away in the surrounding hills. Throughout his 30-minute visit yesterday Mr Rifkind had to be closely guarded by SAS soldiers who have never left the town since the

siege ended. The SAS plays a crucial long-range reconnaissance role in Bosnia, along with their counterparts from other nations. They answer directly to Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the United Nations commander in Bosnia, who is a former SAS chief. He, in turn, keeps in touch with the Director of Special Forces in Britain.

Mr Rifkind visited the schoolhouse camp of D Squadron. A heavily sand-bagged observation post keeps watch on Serb sniper positions just 600 yards away. While he was at an intelligence briefing on the ground floor, several Kalashnikov rounds went over the building. They might have been Serb bullets but could as easily have

been fired by Muslim BiH snipers, some of whom are barely 80 yards from the Serb gun-posts.

The BiH soldiers are unhappy with the continuing British presence in Maglaj, believing they could deal with the Serbs on their own without the restraining influence of the Household Cavalry's Scimitar tanks.

With all three warring factions living in close proximity around Maglaj and co-operation between the BiH and Croat HVO at best tentative, the SAS's covert reconnaissance skills have proved invaluable in providing a detailed picture of the strength and location of all gun and troop positions. Although the British soldiers in Maglaj have not returned fire for 17 weeks, the Serbs know

from past experience that any deliberate targeting of their base can lead to a devastating response.

Wearing a flak jacket, Mr Rifkind peered through the slit window of the upper-floor observation post and was shown the nearest Serb sniper position. Captain Sebastian Miller from D Squadron said they were woken every day at 6.30am with "a dawn chorus" of Kalashnikov rounds being fired by the snipers. The British soldiers have noticed that the BiH are acquiring new Kalashnikovs, despite the supposed UN arms embargo.

To help keep the community on the UN's side, the Household Cavalry Regiment is repairing the shell-damaged sports hall in the town.

Major David Waterhouse, the officer commanding D Squadron, said: "We have an arrangement... if we provide four men to work in the sports hall, they [the Muslims] also have to provide four men. I want to see a bit of give and take."

□ Sarajevo: The UN's efforts to revive its founding operation in Bosnia have met with a hostile response from Serb military commanders, who are demanding a Security Council resolution guaranteeing an end to Nato air raids (Joel Brand writes).

In a letter leaked by UN officials yesterday, the Bosnian Serbs threaten to launch airstrikes from the base near Banja Luka in defiance of the no-fly zone over the country.

## Major confirms Britain near to Bosnia pullout

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BUDAPEST

JOHN MAJOR yesterday gave the most explicit signal yet that Britain's patience in Bosnia was exhausted and the Government was moving closer to a decision to withdraw its peacekeeping forces.

The Prime Minister also gave a strong warning to the American Congress that it would bear a heavy responsibility for the carnage which would follow if it lifted the arms embargo and forced the departure of peacekeepers.

In his press conference at the end of the summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe — now renamed the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe — Mr Major said British troops were in Bosnia for humanitarian purposes. They would stay only as long as they could carry out their mission. "They are not equipped to fight a war and they are not there to fight a war, and we have to have concern for the safety of those troops, as do other troop contributors."

He "very much hoped" the British contingent in the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) could stay. But he said that everyone at the summit and on the ground in Bosnia felt intense frustration that whenever a diplomatic settlement appeared in sight,

one or another of the warring factions resumed fighting and set everything back. "The warring parties must, without delay, accept a ceasefire."

Mr Major refused to set a timescale for how long British forces would stay, but said contingency plans had been made for a withdrawal. He would give no details.

His gloomy remarks came two days before a crucial meeting of a senior Cabinet group, including Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary. The group will consider the pros and cons of withdrawal. Mr Rifkind is expected to emphasise the advice of the military commanders he has been meeting in Bosnia, and the effect on British troop morale of the cat-and-mouse game that the Bosnian Serbs have been playing with peacekeepers they have taken hostage.

Mr Major sent an unambiguous warning to Washington that it would bear a heavy responsibility for the wider war in Bosnia which, he said, would follow any decision to lift the arms embargo. It was "highly appropriate for people to think what would be the position on the ground" if the embargo were lifted, he said, without specifying to whom he was referring. Such a move

would make it impossible for the UN to carry out its humanitarian mission.

He added: "It is conceivable that events will force us down this path, but we will not go down it willingly." Mr Major admitted that if the UN force were withdrawn, it was likely that the embargo would be lifted.

The Prime Minister's warning was reinforced yesterday by a similarly pessimistic prognosis by Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, who said the UN mission was nearing collapse. "Unprofor is at the end of its tether. If there is no diplomatic progress over the next few weeks, and if the American Congress again starts talking about lifting the embargo and air strikes, we need to be ready to start a withdrawal operation."

Mr Hurd laid down a timetable which he said all the warring parties must accept. First, they had to agree a ceasefire around Bihać. Then they had to accept the five-nation Contact Group's plan for the division of Bosnia. Then they could hold talks about land exchanges which must be agreed by all parties. Talks on constitutional arrangements, including the confederation of each ethnic group with its immediate neighbours, could then begin.



President Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, confer in Budapest before the summit banquet

Finally, the Bosnian Serbs must start withdrawing to the 49 per cent of the land allocated to them in the peace plan.

The only glimmer of hope Mr Hurd offered was that a sizeable number of Bosnian Serbs, including their self-styled Foreign Minister, had

arrived in Belgrade from Pale and supported the call by President Milosevic of Serbia for acceptance of the peace plan. British officials see this as the first result of Mr Milosevic's promise on Sunday to Mr Hurd and M Juppé that he would use his influ-

ence in Pale to promote the plan. Officials believe the veracity between Mr Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, can be exploited to topple the hardliners in Pale.

□ Zagreb: The UN yesterday warned the Serbs against us-

ing the Udbina airport again now that they have repaired it after last month's Nato air raid. The Nato-enforced no-fly zone remained in force, and any use of Udbina would "result in immediate enforcement action", a spokesman said. (Reuter)

## Making a meal of the PM's night off

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD  
IN BUDAPEST

Is John Major beginning to weary of the endless rounds of diplomatic dinners and receptions? On Monday night, after a hard day's summit at the Budapest security conference, the Prime Minister opted for a quiet night in and turned down an invitation to attend a glittering state banquet hosted by President Goncz of Hungary.

His preference for the company of Roderick Lyne, his foreign affairs private secretary, and Christopher Meyer, his press secretary, rather than that of Helmut Kohl and Boris Yeltsin raised a few eyebrows.

President Yeltsin has been known to keep his host waiting. So has Mr Major been taking lessons in protocol from Boris or was he too busy twisting backbench arms by remote control? His aides dismissed such fevered speculation. After five bilateral meetings and a day of making and listening to speeches, Mr Major had had enough.

He showed his face at the dinner Douglas Hurd was hosting for "interesting Hungarians" at the residence of Sir John Birch, the British Ambassador, then retired to another room to kick off his shoes and take a telephone call from Kenneth Clarke on the VAT miff. The banquet — consommé Magyar, veal with goose liver, and sponge cake washed down with champagne — in the Gothic splendour of the parliament by the Danube went ahead without Mr Major.

International conferences are much dominated by talk of snubs, rows and gaffes. Budapest had already racked up half a snub — President Clinton's impromptu 15 minutes with Mr Major in a tense atmosphere and a full-scale row over Nato. But the gaffe-meter was still registering zero.

Was Mr Major taking his revenge? If so, Jean Chrétien and Mario Frick have cause for complaint. The seating plan for the dinner sandwiched the Prime Minister between Canada and Liechtenstein. "Britain snubs Liechtenstein" seemed an unsatisfactory riposte to the end of the special relationship.

But the Foreign Office was having none of it. "We snub above our weight," boasted one official, before dismissing the banquet as a "protocol roll call".

The fog curling around the Danube also seemed to cloud Mr Hurd's judgment. His lofty putdown registered at least a blip on the gaffe-o-meter. "I don't honestly think that many people are sitting up looking at their watches and saying when is the CSCE going to produce its document on Bosnia," Mr Major put a hand on his knee, and advised: "Don't be tactless, Douglas."

## Jets plea poses dilemma for Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

THE Luftwaffe may be deployed in its first combat mission since the Second World War if Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, gives way this week to American and Nato pressure to deploy Tornado squadrons in Bosnia.

Herr Kohl is due to meet Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, and Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, in Bonn today to discuss the issue and prepare a recommendation for the Cabinet. There are many hurdles to be negotiated: above all, a parliamentary majority has to approve such an initiative. Even so, Germany seems to be edging towards one of the most critical military decisions in its postwar history.

The Constitutional Court ruled in summer that German forces could be used outside the Nato region if the Government won the backing of a parliamentary majority.

Bonn has a dilemma: it is afraid of projecting itself as a great power, and is equally afraid of not projecting itself as a great power. Moreover, Herr Kohl has only a ten-seat majority in parliament, which could quickly crumble on such a controversial issue.

Herr Kinkel insists that Germany's image could be damaged by military activity where memories of Nazi atrocities are still very much alive.

## Tough first mission awaits peace troops in disputed enclave

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

IN CHOOSING Nagorno-Karabakh as the test case for their first peacekeeping operation yesterday, the member states of the OSCE could not have picked a tougher mission.

The largely Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan is a remote, mountainous region that has been the setting for some of the most brutal ethnic violence of modern times. After six years of war, the area is almost entirely in Armenian hands at the cost of thousands killed and tens of thousands made homeless.

The first obstacle facing the force of 3,000 peace troops will be how to deploy in rugged terrain with no infrastructure. Food, fuel, accommodation and communications will all have to be flown in at great cost.

"It's going to be a very tough operation," said a Western diplomat recently returned from the region. "Everything the peacekeepers need will have to be airlifted because there is nothing there."

The other pressing issue is deciding which of the 53 OSCE nations should contribute to the force, which is expected to be divided equally between peacekeeping soldiers and support troops. Britain has volunteered a detachment of signallers to run the communications. Austria, Croatia and Norway have also offered personnel.

Participation of countries

with strategic and historic links to the region is also problematic. Turkey, which has ethnic and religious ties to the Azerbaijanis but is regarded as Armenia's traditional enemy, wants to send a battalion of 700 troops. Russia has made it clear that it wants to contribute as much as half of the force and insists that a Russian officer be put in overall command.

Although the Armenian leadership has no objection to Russia's dominant role, Azerbaijan is more hesitant after Moscow's support for Yerevan during the conflict. Baku wants guarantees that the Russian contingent will not be transformed into the Kremlin's permanent military presence on its soil, like other Russian peacekeeping operations.

Once the problems of logistics and personnel have been overcome, the peacekeepers will have to try to carry out the dangerous task of trying to separate the Armenian and Azerbaijani combatants, supervise the exchange of prisoners and the return of refugees, and make sure that the numerous front lines remain calm while talks on a final settlement start.

Here too, the peacekeepers face problems. The Armenians want a negotiated settlement before they agree to pull their forces out, while Azerbaijan, militarily weaker, wants the troop withdrawal first.

## Over-the-counter medicines

A new book describes the symptoms and care of common ailments and gives a list of recommended over-the-counter treatments, including a popular range of herbal and homeopathic medicines now available in most chemists. Written by Britain's most popular 'radio doctor', all the information is easily accessible, set out in an A-Z of conditions as well as an A-Z of medicines, each with up-to-date brand names, treatments and expert advice on how to use the medications safely and sensibly.

Useful addresses and an important set of guidelines make this an essential book for every home medicine cupboard. Dr Mike Smith's *Handbook of Over-the-Counter Medicines* costs just £8.95 postpaid. To order, send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date) to Carnell plc, Dept CM1, Alresford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book anytime within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.

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# Top anti-bribery judge quits over Berlusconi slur

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

JUDGE Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate and folk hero who spearheaded Italy's anti-corruption crackdown, resigned yesterday in a dramatic protest at government claims that his crusade was politically motivated.

The lira plummeted against other currencies and the share index on the Milan bourse tumbled as traders questioned whether the resignation might spell the end of the "clean hands" investigation into Italy's *tangentopoli* (bribe city) scandal.

Judge Di Pietro, a 44-year-old former policeman whose investigations led to the arrest of thousands of politicians, businessmen and officials, resigned "in a spirit of service and with death in my heart".

In a two-page letter to Francesco Saverio Borelli, Milan's chief prosecutor, the judge said that he was leaving the judiciary because of attacks on the "clean hands" magistrates' team. Signor Borelli later accepted the resignation.

Judge Di Pietro has been locked in battle with Silvio Berlusconi, the Prime Minister. Last month the magistrate sent the billionaire media tycoon an *avviso di garanzia*, or judicial letter, advising him that he was under investiga-

tion on suspicion of bribing tax inspectors examining his Fininvest holding company. Signor Berlusconi denied corruption and insinuated that the judges in Milan were communist sympathisers.

Only hours before resigning, Judge Di Pietro asked a court to sentence Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League, to ten months' imprisonment for accepting illegal party funds. He requested a similar sentence for Alessandro Patelli, former treasurer of the party.

Signor Bossi and Signor Patelli are among 24 defendants in the so-called Enimont case. According to the prosecution, the Ferruzzi foods-to-chemicals empire distributed millions of dollars to political parties and their leaders.

The leadership of the Northern League denies any wrongdoing. Speeches for the defence are likely to last several days, after which the judges will issue their verdict.

In his resignation letter, Judge Di Pietro let it be known he felt inadequately supported in his mission by the opposition Democratic Party of the Left. The former communists are smarting after magistrates revived investigation into alleged corruption in their ranks

and in the old Italian Communist Party. The Milan investigators were also angered by a decision by the Supreme Appeal Court to move an investigation of bribery among tax inspectors from Milan to the sleepy northern town of Brescia.

The resignation raised the stakes in the battle between the Prime Minister and the Milan investigators. If Judge Di Pietro's gesture provokes popular outrage, he may rescind it and gain further leverage. If it does not, Signor Berlusconi is likely to gain time in his battle to remain in power.

Questioned about the resignation while in Budapest, where he was attending the security summit, Signor Berlusconi said: "This is a problem of internal politics. I don't think it is so important. Let us wait and see."

The Northern League, partners in Signor Berlusconi's coalition, were quick to denounce the pressures that evidently forced the judge to quit. A senior member, Marco Formentini, the Mayor of Milan, said: "We are grateful for what 'clean hands' has done. We think they still have much to do and we support them."

## Delors keeps his decision on presidency race under wraps

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

JACQUES Delors, the current favourite to win the French presidential race if he runs, has at last taken a decision on whether or not he will. But he came no closer to ending the agony of his Socialist Party by declining to disclose which way his decision has gone.

"I have always done my duty, sometimes at the expense of my material situation; I do not have to take lessons from anyone," said the retiring President of the European Commission. He pointed out, however, that he paid no

heed to opinion polls that now put him well ahead of Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister.

The most striking survey this week showed that 40 per cent of people believe M Delors is best qualified to succeed Mitterrand in May. Only 29 per cent think the same of M Balladur. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader and a declared runner, polled only 16 per cent.

M Delors, 69, has made no secret of his reluctance to seek France's supreme post and

some close friends have been insisting that he will not stand. This would obliterate the euphoria that has gripped the Socialists since M Delors stepped into the electoral battlefield this autumn. No other Socialist candidate is given the remotest chance of winning.

The party, in which M Delors has always been a centre-leaning anomaly, is still reeling from the discredit inflicted by scandals and its successive electoral defeats, and would be badly demoralised were he not to run.



A Chechen boy wields a gun at a "Free Chechnya" rally in Grozny, capital of the breakaway Russian republic

## Moscow sues for peace with Chechnya

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

THE threat of a bloody Russian military intervention in Chechnya receded last night after last-ditch talks between Dzhokhar Dudayev, the breakaway republic's leader, and General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister. They said they had agreed that force would not be used to end the crisis.

Speaking after their meeting in the village of Ordzhonikidzevskoye in Ingushetia, which borders Chechnya, they said that "there will not be a military solution to the problem". General Grachev said the question of Russian soldiers being held prisoner

in Chechnya "will be solved in the next few days", and he and General Dudayev "both being soldiers understood each other well". General Dudayev had previously described the talks as "a last chance to avoid war".

While the Yeltsin Government's threats have tended to make the Chechens close ranks behind the previously unpopular Dudayev regime, in Moscow they have opened deep rifts in the Russian political establishment. Politicians of every stripe are using the crisis over Chechnya as an opportunity to increase their public profile and attack

the Government. They are encouraged in this by opinion polls suggesting that a majority of Russians oppose military intervention by Moscow in Chechnya.

In the words of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist, "a civil war is starting in Russia. Unfortunately, Russian parliamentary deputies are reacting by skipping off down there as if they were going to the bazaar, earning themselves a nice bit of political capital". Mr Zhirinovskiy omitted to mention that his own Liberal Democratic Party is doing exactly the same in an effort to influence

President Yeltsin against immediate intervention. General Dudayev hinted yesterday that he may return all the remaining Russian soldiers, captured and held prisoner in Chechnya ten days ago.

He has been handing them over in dribs and drabs to Russian parliamentary delegations. On Monday, a group from Mr Zhirinovskiy's party was given two prisoners. A delegation of Russian liberal deputies led by Sergei Yushenkov, the defence committee chairman, is on its second visit to Grozny, the Chechen capital, in the hope of receiving a few more.

### WORLD SUMMARY

## Iberia to make big cutbacks

Madrid: The board of Iberia announced yesterday that it would immediately start drastic cutbacks to save the near-bankrupt state airline after negotiations with the Spanish pilots' union broke down (Edward Owen writes).

Javier Salas, president of Iberia, said he would start talks with the main unions on how to reduce the 24,000 workforce. Sepla, the pilots' union, had unexpectedly refused to take a 15 per cent pay cut, demanding that the board be replaced and a viability plan for the airline be made.

## Rock checks tightened

Gibraltar: Spain raised the stakes in its border dispute with Gibraltar yesterday by tightening checks on pedestrians, adding to delays (Dominique Searle writes). The move, less than two weeks before Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, meets Javier Solana, his Spanish counterpart, signals a toughening of Madrid's attempts to pressure Britain into tackling tobacco and drug contraband on the Rock.

## Nine killed by lorry

Andorra la Vella: A runaway lorry smashed into a restaurant, killing at least nine people and injuring 50. It was one of the worst accidents in memory in Andorra, the tiny state between France and Spain in the Pyrenees. The lorry's brakes failed as it was being driven down a steep hill in Andorra la Vella, the capital. (AP)

## Clinic death sentence

Pensacola: Paul Hill, a former church minister, has been sentenced to die in the electric chair for shooting dead a doctor and an escort outside an abortion clinic. A Florida state jury convicted Hill of first-degree murder for killing Dr John Bayard Britton, 69, and James Barrett, 74, on July 29. (AP)

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# Whitewater fraud trial is promised details on Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Whitewater special prosecutor has won his first conviction with the guilty plea of a land appraiser in Arkansas.

Under a plea bargain, Robert Palmer, 44, admitted creating false property appraisals for Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, the failed thrift institution once owned by Jim and Susan McDougal, who were also President and Mrs Clinton's partners in the abortive Whitewater development.

His confession was expected to be followed by the announcement of another agreement between the prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, and Webster Hubbell, former Associate Attorney-General and a friend of the Clintons.

In exchange for Palmer's cooperation, Mr Starr will not press additional charges against him and will not ask the judge to impose a prison sentence. Palmer has promised to disclose what he knows about the finances of the Clintons and others connected with Whitewater and Madison.

Although Palmer has been portrayed as having a small part in the affair, he could offer significant evidence about his appraisal work for a transaction loan that is under the prosecutor's scrutiny. It allegedly enabled \$300,000

(£192,000) of a federal small-business loan to be diverted from Madison to Whitewater, and possibly to Mr Clinton's campaign funds when he sought re-election as Governor of Arkansas. Mr Clinton has denied using his influence to win approval for the loan.

Palmer admitted in court in Little Rock, Arkansas, to conspiring to defraud federal bank investigators by making false entries on at least 25 appraisals for loans Madison had already made. The false documents were needed, he said, because Madison executives were trying to avoid seizure of the institution by government inspectors for insolvency.

Palmer told the judge he did not compose the false documents for his gain and said his actions were "based on my personal failure to put aside personal relationships in performing my professional obligations".

On the political front, trouble is mounting for Mr Clinton after the resignation of Lloyd Bentsen as Treasury Secretary. The loss to the White House of its economic eminence is a blow to the Administration as it faces the incoming Republican Congress. However, the President emphasised that Mr Bentsen

would be available to serve in a "kitchen cabinet" to provide outside advice to the Administration.

Mr Clinton nominated Robert Rubin, head of the National Economic Council, as his successor. Mr Rubin is highly regarded and generally shares Mr Bentsen's conservative economic views.

The President said Mr Bentsen, 73, had expressed a desire to return to Texas to spend more time with his family and praised him for a "job very well done". Mr Bentsen, who will go just before Christmas, said he had told Mr Clinton in September he planned to leave after the mid-term elections and "our completion of our agenda for the year".

Mr Bentsen praised Mr Rubin, 57, a former banker at Goldman Sachs in New York, as a man with a broad knowledge of the Administration's programme. At the announcement in the White House Rose Garden, Mr Rubin said "too many people are not feeling the benefits of the economic recovery", though he believed that much had been accomplished to improve business prospects during the Administration's first two years.

Drafting the General, page 18



Burt Reynolds testifies in a Los Angeles court that financial problems are affecting his ability to pay child support. The actor and his former wife, Lori Anderson, right, were in court to determine how much

child support he should pay for their adopted son, Quinton, six. Mr Reynolds has been paying \$42,000 (£26,250) a month under a temporary order. He claimed he was \$2 million in debt, but Ms Anderson's lawyer

produced copies of a financial prospectus Mr Reynolds submitted in May saying his net worth was \$7.6 million and that he had earned \$4.4 million in six years. Mr Reynolds became agitated when asked about

the discrepancy. "I don't want to talk about this in front of these cameras," he said. Later he said he had given a poor performance. "I didn't look too good. I'm not an accountant. I'm an actor."



## Doctor suggests more than one killer of backpackers

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

MORE than one person may have carried out Australia's backpacker murders, a court was told yesterday.

The claim was made by Dr Peter Bradhurst, a forensic pathologist who performed post-mortem examinations on all seven murdered hitchhikers. He said the evidence suggested that the murders might have been the work of a number of people because of the different styles of killing.

"Because there are two different patterns to the murders it is more than likely more than one was involved," he said. Dr Bradhurst told Campbelltown Court near Sydney, where Ivan Milat is facing criminal proceedings over charges that he murdered

all seven tourists, that the bodies of the British victims supported the theory. Caroline Clarke, from Slaley, Northumberland, was shot ten times in the head, while her travelling companion Joanne Walters, from Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, was stabbed in the back and chest.

James Gibson, an Australian hitchhiker, was stabbed to death but Deborah Everist, his girlfriend, suffered multiple injuries including a fractured skull and a broken jaw. Gabor Neugebauer, a German backpacker, was shot six times in the head but Anja Habschied, his girlfriend, was stabbed and decapitated. Simone Schmidt, another German girl, died from multiple

stab wounds. Dr Bradhurst conceded that it was possible that one person could have incapacitated one of a pair of victims before dealing with the other.

"But I tend to think that it is more than likely that more than one person was involved," he said.

Detectives had considered the possible involvement of more than one killer before Mr Milat's arrest in May.

Dr Bradhurst also told the court that a Bowie knife discovered in Mr Milat's house and a cavalry-style sword found in his mother's home could have caused injuries consistent with the wounds inflicted on some of the victims.

## Sheepdog used to smuggle cocaine

BY BEN MACINTYRE

AN OLD English Sheepdog is recovering at New York's John F. Kennedy airport after customs officials found five pounds of cocaine-filled condoms surgically implanted in its abdomen in what police describe as the latest and cruelest smuggling technique by Colombian drug traffickers.

The female sheepdog arrived at the airport last Thursday on a flight from Bogotá and customs investigators became suspicious when they noticed the animal's lethargic state and emaciated condition. An X-ray examination revealed ten tightly-packed condoms "the size of oranges" full of cocaine, with a street value estimated at \$250,000 (£158,000). These were surgically removed.

"This is the first known case in which a pet has been used as a 'mule' to smuggle drugs," a US Customs official said. John Erik Roa, 22, was arrested on Saturday when he arrived to claim the animal.

Customs officials said that the dog would probably be trained to sniff out drugs.

## Christopher trip seeks to revive Middle East peace

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WARREN Christopher, the United States Secretary of State, began his seventh Middle East mission of 1994 yesterday to try to improve the atmosphere surrounding the peace process.

Landing first in Damascus, the Syrian capital, he was faced with deep pessimism about there being any quick way to rescue the Syrian-Israeli peace talks from the impasse they have reached over the future of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Today in Jerusalem, Mr Christopher will have talks

with Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister. Their meeting will be just before the 18-strong Israeli Cabinet gathers in a special session to consider the future of Israel's peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. At a Cabinet session on Sunday, senior army and intelligence officers called for a delay in the next step of the plan, which involves a withdrawal of the occupying Israeli troops on the West Bank.

Several ministers support the military pressure being put on Mr Rabin to delay the

redeployment of troops from population centres in order to permit Palestinian elections. Shimon Shetret, the Economic Minister, said: "My conclusion ... is not to withdraw from the cities. If elections are held, the polling stations must be under the control of our army." Recent polls show public opinion turning away from support for the peace plan signed last year.

Mr Christopher will next travel to the newly autonomous Gaza Strip before returning to Damascus, where President Assad claimed last week that, because of "impossible demands" by Israel, he preferred the status quo.

In Gaza, Mr Christopher will try to bolster Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, in his struggle against Islamic militants who oppose the peace process. On Monday, Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, again showed its strength by scoring a sweeping victory in student elections at Gaza's Islamic University.

Mordechai Gur, the Israeli Deputy Defence Minister, yesterday cast a shadow over Mr Christopher's mission. "There is one big question to which we do not have an answer," he said. "How does Assad define 'full peace'?"

## Britain protests over attack on diplomat

BRITAIN'S Ambassador to Israel, Andrew Burns, yesterday went to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to protest about an incident on Saturday night when a British diplomat in a car with diplomatic plates was shot at by Israeli troops as it approached a roadblock on the border with the Gaza Strip (Christopher Walker writes from Jerusalem).

Peter Morrison, 30, the Assistant Cultural Attaché, who was driving home from Gaza, escaped injury but the vehicle

was damaged by at least one bullet. British diplomats contest an army claim that Mr Morrison deliberately ignored a call to halt. He was not injured. British officials were angered not only by the nature of the incident but also by the slowness of the Israeli Defence Forces in providing details.

Richard Dalton, the British Consul-General, said: "Mr Morrison was ... inching slowly towards the checkpoint through a deep puddle when the shooting took place."

## Shoppers flee US tremors

Los Angeles: At least seven tremors shook northern Los Angeles, emptying cinemas and shopping centres, but no injuries were reported (Giles Whitell writes).

The strongest shock on Monday night, which measured 4.5 on the Richter scale, was felt from Beverly Hills to Santa Barbara, 100 miles away. It originated near the epicentre of the earthquake that devastated parts of the city in January.

## Nobel post

Oslo: Gunnar Staalslett, 59, a theologian, joined the Nobel Peace Prize committee, replacing a member who resigned over the award to Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chief (AP).

## Accused ill

New York: Shaikh Omar Abdel Rahman, 56, the Muslim cleric awaiting trial on charges of planning a campaign to blow up New York landmarks, has contracted non-contagious tuberculosis.

## Locust threat

Khartoum: Locusts have infested 25,000 acres in Sudan, threatening crops. The Government is to launch a campaign to get rid of the insects, which have multiplied in recent heavy rain. (Reuters)

## Whale haven

Wellington: The Southern Ocean whale sanctuary, for which environmentalists campaigned for 30 years, went into operation yesterday. It will particularly protect minke whales. (Reuters)

## Economy drive

Shanghai: A total of 156 imported cars, including Cadillacs, Rolls-Royces, Mercedes and BMWs, are for sale in China after local Communist officials were ordered to auction their vehicles. (Reuters)



Bogart as Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon*

## Memorabilia hunters fall prey to Maltese Falcon

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE Maltese Falcon statuette from the 1941 Humphrey Bogart film of that name was up for auction in New York yesterday, the centre-piece in a sale of Hollywood memorabilia ranging from Mae West's bed to the Oscar awarded to the director of *Gone With The Wind*.

Christies set an estimate of \$30,000 to \$50,000 (£19,230 to £32,051) for the Maltese Falcon, one of only two such statues made for the film, but experts have predicted the price of the icon "could reach six figures".

The lead statue with bronze patina stands 11.5in high but weighs 45lb.

During the making of John Huston's "film noir", the actress Lee Patrick accidentally dropped the statue, but Bogart (playing the gritty detective Sam Spade) gallantly pushed his co-star out of the way, and the prop landed on his own foot.

"That's what I get for saving you when you tried to give me the bird," the actor muttered as he limped away.

In the 1960s the statue was presented to William Conrad, the actor, producer and director by the studio chief Jack Warner, and was offered for sale by Conrad's widow after spending the last three decades on a

bookshelf. The only other authenticated Maltese Falcon is in a private collection.

The craze in America for Hollywood souvenirs reached a peak last year when Vivien Leigh's Oscar for her performance as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With The Wind* fetched the record-breaking price of \$563,500.

Two more Oscars went on sale yesterday: Howard Koch's Academy Award for the screenplay of *Casablanca*, estimated at \$60,000-\$80,000, and another presented to Victor Fleming, the director of *Gone With The Wind*, estimated at \$100,000 to

\$150,000. Other items on the block at Christies included Clark Gable's fishing licence, a chipped terracotta tile from the grounds of Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion, Marlene Dietrich's jewellery and the entrance doors to Rick's Café from the set of *Casablanca*. Mae West's canopied replica of a Louis XIV bed in which, as the screen temptress observed, "I do my best work", was expected to sell for \$3,000 to \$5,000.

The Aston Martin used by Sean Connery in the film *Goldfinger* is the most expensive film prop in history. It was sold for \$275,000 in 1986.

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## Oppos Bangla quit par

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THE OPPOSITION in Bangladesh has quit parliament, protesting against the government's handling of the 1994 elections. The opposition parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Islamic Party, have withdrawn from the parliament, claiming that the elections were rigged. They demand a new election and the release of political prisoners. The government, led by Sheikh Hasina, has accused the opposition of violence and intimidation. The situation in Bangladesh remains tense, with reports of further protests and clashes between the opposition and the police.

## Police under squatter ba

By MICHAEL HAMMAN IN BRIAN

THE POLICE in Brian are under pressure to clear squatters from a large area of land. The squatters, who have been living on the land for years, are now being evicted. The police are facing a difficult task, as the squatters are determined to stay. The government has ordered the police to clear the land, but the squatters are claiming that they have a right to the land. The situation is a complex one, and the police are struggling to find a solution. The squatters are now being housed in temporary shelters, but the police are still trying to clear the land. The government is now considering a new approach to the problem.

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# Opposition in Bangladesh to quit parliament

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

BANGLADESH'S fragile democracy came under increased threat yesterday when opposition parties announced that all their MPs would resign from parliament on December 28 as part of a nine-month campaign to force the resignation of Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister.

The move was made on Democracy Day, the fourth anniversary of the overthrow of President Ershad, the dictator, which led to the country's first free general election in 1991. General Ershad took power after a bloodless coup in 1982. He is still in jail on charges relating to his period in office. His Jatiya Party, which he directs from prison, was among those that have threatened to leave parliament. He probably sees a change of government as his best chance of freedom.

A 48-hour general strike has been called by all opposition parties from today to support demands for the installation of a neutral caretaker administration pending fresh elections. Police will be out in force to contain violence, threatening to take Bangladesh back to the days of mass street confrontation that have marked much of its 23-year history.

The crisis comes at a time of unrest among the security forces, indicating deepening dissatisfaction within some of

the country's most important basic institutions that democracy has brought little measurable benefit. A mutiny by auxiliary police demanding better pay and pension rights was crushed on Sunday by paramilitary forces and police, backed by regular soldiers. About 3,000 of the country's 20,000 auxiliary police, known as Ansars, joined the rebellion, in which the Dhaka headquarters were seized. They face long jail sentences.

Opposition parties, who have boycotted parliament since March, rejected proposals worked out in a 40-day mission to Dhaka by Commonwealth mediators to end the political crisis. They proposed the formation of a caretaker Cabinet headed by Begum Khalida, who would appoint five ministers from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party while Shaikha Hasina Wasad, the opposition leader, would nominate five from opposition MPs. Polls would be held within 45 days.

The opposition demanded installation of an apolitical caretaker government, led by non-politicians. Begum Khalida called these demands unconstitutional and pledged to fight to remain in office until her five-year term expired in early 1996. Government officials said that mass resignations by the opposition

would leave two options: to call by-elections or dissolve parliament and announce a general election.

Shaikha Hasina's failure to topple the Government has weakened her credibility among opposition groups, which include the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, as well as General Ershad's party. Her Awami League helped to topple the former dictator and has a tradition of hostility towards Jamaat-i-Islami and it is a measure of the opportunism of Bangladeshi politics that she is co-operating with them.

The business community is outraged by repeated strikes called by opposition leaders and there are signs of impatience by poor Bangladeshis, who can ill afford to lose a day's pay. Western donor nations are worried by the country's slow economic growth, due in large measure to continuing instability.

## Memories of war fuel Japanese rancour

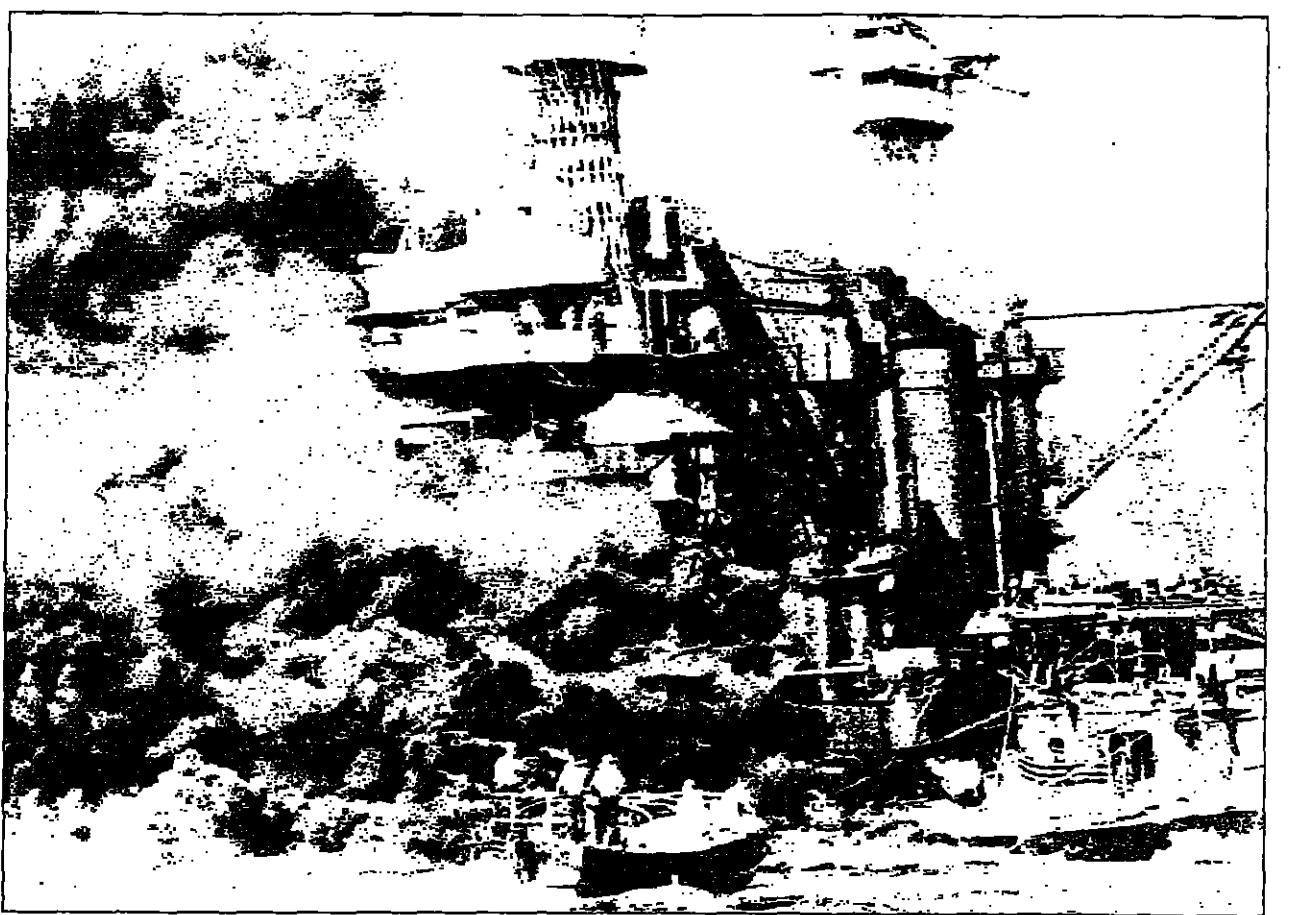
FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

AS AMERICANS mark National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day today to recall the attack on the US naval base in Hawaii 53 years ago, a Tokyo project to build the first national memorial to Japanese war victims and a decision not to grant government money to "comfort women" are fuelling dissent.

The memorial dispute centres on whether the Government should provide the 12.3 billion yen (£78 million) for a memorial dedicated solely to Japanese war victims. Construction has been delayed by pacifist groups demanding the inclusion of non-Japanese victims.

Other conservatives and activists insist that the war was an act of self-defence and that only Japanese victims should be commemorated.

The argument comes as historical sensitivities are reaching a peak on both sides of the Pacific. In a proclamation which annoyed many Japanese, President Clinton



The rescue of a seaman from the USS West Virginia after it was hit by Japanese bombs on December 7, 1941

last week urged all Americans to observe the Pearl Harbor day "with appropriate activities" to honour those who served there.

One Japanese television station cautioned this "was

only the first drop of a gathering storm. Countries everywhere will expect Japan not only to say sorry, but to act sorry."

There is growing international pressure on Japan to

compensate war victims, particularly the estimated 150,000 to 200,000 "comfort women". Japan yesterday attempted to end the debate by deciding to give no direct government money to women forced into

prostitution for Japanese soldiers. Kozo Igarashi, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, said that Japan would pay for only an already announced \$1 billion programme to atone for Japan's wartime atrocities.

## Police under fire in squatter battle

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE centre of Johannesburg became a late-night battleground as homeless black squatters were forced into the street by security guards carrying out an eviction order. As they did so a sniper opened fire on the guards and police.

One policeman was wounded and the sniper arrested. But disturbances continued late into the night, and fires broke out in the block in which the squatters had been living.

Yesterday a van band of squatters sat or lay in Leyds Street near Joubert Park with furniture piled up around them. They vowed that they would return to the flats.

"We don't understand the problem," said one of the squatters, a bank clerk, 22. "We are prepared to pay what we can afford. But the landlord won't negotiate with us."

The trouble began when an organisation calling itself the Johannesburg Tenants' Association announced a programme of occupation of empty housing by homeless families. The group identified Claridge Court in a run-down area of the city, behind the headquarters of the African National Congress.

The block had been empty since the landlords evicted tenants who had undertaken a rent strike.

The association allocated flats to families, and charged around 250 rands (£45) per month rent until the landlord obtained an eviction order.

The battles are a reflection of the dissatisfaction of many blacks with the Government they elected in April. There have been a series of land invasions on the suburban fringes of the city. These were firmly condemned yesterday by Dan Mofokeng, the Housing Minister for the region that includes Johannesburg.

A housing white paper has been speedily drawn up and is to go to the Cabinet today.

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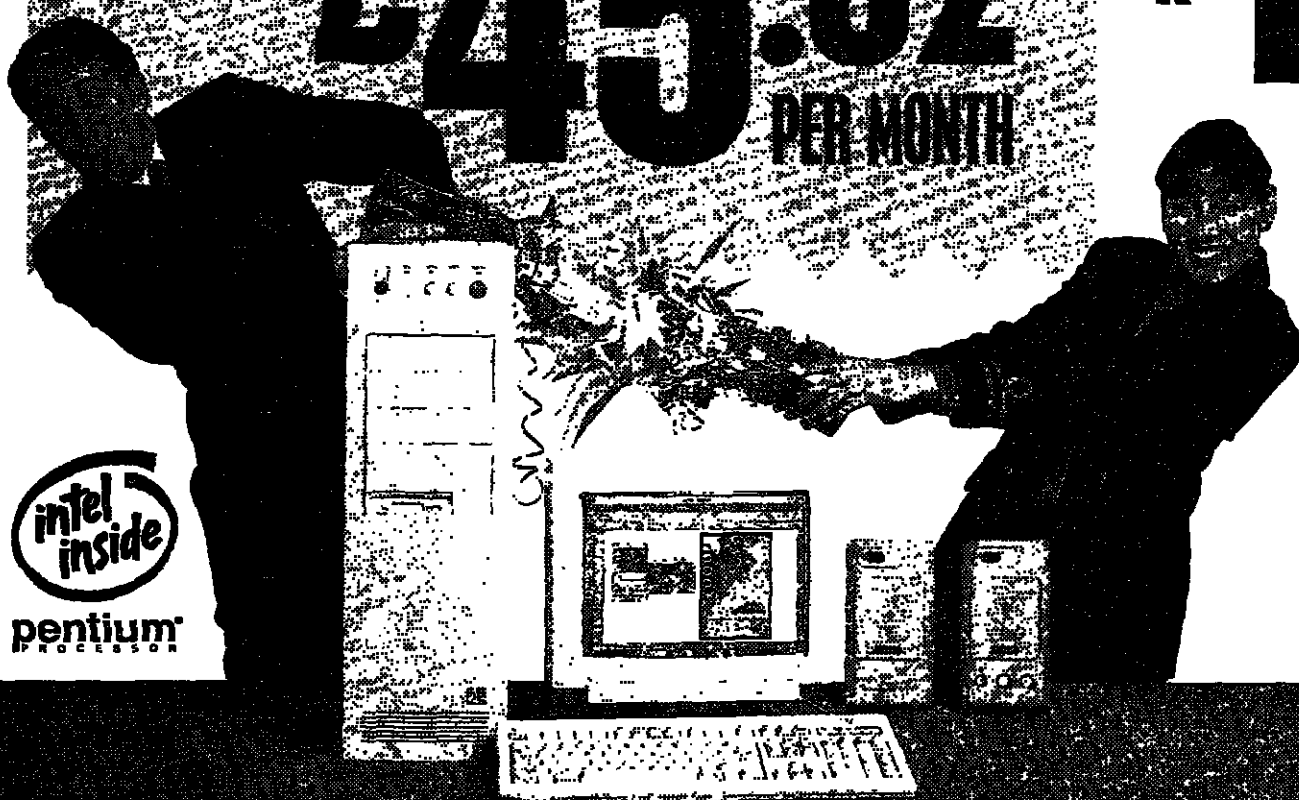
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The etiquette of phones and faxes grows ever more testing

## Please hold the line, you complete cad

The Mercury name may be fading from our streets as its 3,000 telephone boxes disappear, but there is no stopping the wave of new telephone gadgets on offer this Christmas.

Welcome to the world of call-screening (where the number of the caller flashes up on a screen); call-waiting (a beep which tells you that another call is trying to get through); and of course the ubiquitous mobile phone.

What we haven't got, though, is a guide through the social minefield thrown up by this technology. Is it acceptable, for example, to phone from a train? Can you fax an invitation? Should you tell one caller that you have another call on the line?

The rules used to be simple. An older generation knew that there were polite hours in which to call, says Lady Celestia Noel, social editor of *Harpers & Queen*.

It was done to phone between 9 and 11am and between 6 and 7pm. There was no phoning during meal-times (the butler would have answered anyway. The late Harold Macmillan, when temporarily bereft of staff, did a fine butler impersonation).

But life was slower then, calls were shorter, and there was always the danger that the village postmistress might be listening. The art today is to use technology to preserve a sense of a more leisureed age. By all means, says Lady Celestia, keep your answering machine on if you have people to dinner. It can play butler. "Why should the phone take priority?"

(An older generation nurtured in a world where the telephone meant something urgent should turn the ringer off, thereby silencing the sound which generations of telephone companies have cleverly associated with immediate action.)

The mistake is to let technology speed up relationships to such an extent that your

friends believe you don't have time for them. In short, don't treat them as though they are in business, where, after all, such technology began.

Practically every modern dilemma can be answered with this principle in mind. It might be speedy to fax an invitation but it would also be highly inappropriate. Rude, in fact.

"It's as though you thought of somebody at the last minute, rather like the Evelyn Waugh character who always thought it was normal to be invited by telegram," says Lady Celestia.

It may be acceptable to fax dinner or house party directions after the initial invitation. But never fax a thank-you note or leave a thank-you message on an answering machine.

"Call waiting" (that business whereby a strangled voice says "Please hold the line. The number you are calling knows you are more often than not, the 'ringer' can't remember how the system works to speak to the other caller, and the line goes dead.

"It's very, very annoying," says Lady Celestia. "You should never interrupt the call you are on." Again, what is acceptable in a business context sits uneasily in a social one.

Mobile phones must be used with considerable care, says Drusilla Beyfus, the author of *Modern Manners*. "They can convey the impression that the user is indifferent to those around them, the definition of bad manners." August institutions such as the Savoy and the MCC have already banned mobile phones from their premises, much to her delight.

So if your mobile rings during midnight mass this year, you have only yourself to blame. It's good to talk, but it's always impolite to intrude.



RACHEL KELLY

# A mademoiselle Maigret

Paris's top crimefighter is a formidable woman.  
Charles Bremner met her

Put yourself in the shoes of a villain. You have been nabbed, let us say, for organising a string of bank robberies and you are about to be grilled by the gaffer of the Met's serious crime squad. Disarmed is what you might then feel when the chief superintendent in question turns out to be blonde, very chic and armed to the eyes with charm.

Such has been the lot of many a *maître d'hôtel* over the years when confronted with Martine Monteil, who is now the head of the elite Brigade de Répression du Banditisme of the Paris police. The BRB is one of four special sections of the Police Judiciaire, equivalent to the CID and probably best known to Britons as home to the fictional Commissaire Jules Maigret. Since August, le Commissaire Divisionnaire Monteil, aged 44, has been le patron of 130 men — no women — whose job is to fight robbers, swindlers, murderers and assorted other voyous.

"Women often have an advantage and can play on it skilfully," she says. "I once dealt with the case of a stranger, a rapist who'd killed several women. There had been a huge hunt. I used a bit of psychology and talked about his son and his actions. I managed to get him to confess after the other inspectors had failed."

Often, however, the sex of the policeman makes little difference. "When the crook is sitting in front of you and he's been nicked, he's usually in a position of inferiority and he's got business to discuss. So he forgets pretty quickly you're a woman," she says.

Meeting Mme Monteil in her cream-panelled office in the Ile de la Cité, one can understand the success she has enjoyed in the 18 years since she graduated from the police college. She has an easy laugh and a near girlish passion for her job: she is as stylish and feminine as any a



Commissaire Martine Monteil at work: the lamp, made from a Mauser, belonged to her father, former head of the Paris detective department

Parisienne can be: she also has the authority of a headmistress and is a copper down to her elegant finger-tips.

This is not surprising given that she was brought up in the trade. Her grandfather was an officer, her father was *patron* of the whole Palais de Justice and her husband, Jocelyn Monteil, is also a chief super,

in the uniformed division. The couple have a 14-year-old daughter, who, her mother says, has not so far expressed a yen for the police life.

"I grew up in the atmosphere of *la maison* and what seized me most was the feeling of team spirit. Lots of colleagues would come to our house and there was always warmth and a passion about the job," she says.

The police force has been traditionally reluctant to take women. As late as 1988, the European court ordered France to lift quotas on women and it was only two years ago that the first women officers joined the CRS, the notorious riot police.

In the mid 1970s, women graduates were finally allowed to compete in the tough examinations for the high-flyer level of entry, at commissaire level, and Mme Monteil, with a law degree, was one of the few selected. "At the Quai des Orfèvres (the PJ headquarters) lots of the old inspectors when I joined remembered me as a kid," she says. She worked her way up from local officer to a senior job at the "Stupes", or drug squad, and then, in 1989, to the head of "la Mondaine", the old name for the prostitution squad, a fixture of Paris folklore.

That job brought her media

stardom and an award as woman of the year. In 1992, she hit the headlines when she arrested Madame Claude, the famous purveyor of callgirls to high society in the 1970s who had quietly relaunched her business. "It was a *très grand coup* for us because of the personality involved and because she had never been convicted of a real crime. When she ran to America they did her for tax fraud," she says.

She herself has not found that being a woman in a male world is a great handicap. But there is a limit, she says, to the proportion of women the force can take, especially in the lower ranks, where they spend their time on the street and must rely on physical force. "The problem comes when you have a team of eight or nine and you hit a target. It's obvious that if you have three women, the adversary is going to go for them. But the women can be useful too. They fit in well on the street and they can be used to keep suspects covered and to call in back-up."

A big mistake made by some

women, she says, is to try to bury their femininity and imitate *les mecs* — the guys. "I have some young colleagues who try to fit in by playing *le mec* cowboy-style, with jeans, leather jacket and revolver stuffed in the belt. It doesn't work. You are a woman so you should act like one. But it's true that when you're a young officer you have to be comfortable and sometimes do wear jeans and trainers because you have to be able to run."

The early years working *le terrain* in the field are the best, says Mme Monteil. "I always tell the new officers to make the most of *le terrain*. Learn the trade." Though she now exercises her command from a spacious office in the centre of Paris, Madame le Commissaire fiercely defends the force against the charge, widespread from immigrants and the young, that its behaviour has been getting more high-handed and brutal.

She is, she says, a devoted detective. "I am a complete fan of the PJ, everything that's Sherlock Holmes," she says. "I couldn't conceive of the police any other way. Others prefer

the intelligence side or keeping public order. What I love is the investigation. It means starting out with a jigsaw puzzle, a body, and working backwards. You have to put together the pieces, follow people around. It's a hunt and it's up to you to be sly and have flair and intuition, which all makes it impossible to get bored."

Even armed robbers, who make up much of her clientele, are always different, she says. "There's always variety." The trend is towards the growth of serious crime by organised immigrant gangs from the suburbs, a more elusive foe than the old-fashioned crooks of Paris. But there are still some of the old-style *cads* — those gangster bosses who used to be played by Jean Gabin. In her latest "coup", her team tracked down a man alleged to have run an international swindle, distributing cheap violins under expensive names.

Her enthusiasm is infectious but she is clearly very tough. Not all women, she says, can stomach the strain and the seamy side. "I've had colleagues who have given it up after seeing their first corpses. And there are tensions because of the long hours. But it's all worth it."

'Some have given it up after seeing their first corpses'

## One ying tong song too many

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a man in his forties who still does Goon voices is a pretty sad case. Gratifying, then, to have this formally confirmed by a Goon. The moment of truth came on Sunday night when Spike Milligan disrupted the British Comedy Awards and brought on a huff of telephone calls from outraged viewers by referring to the Prince of Wales as "The little grovelling bastard".

Jonathan Ross was reading out a tribute from the Prince on the old Goon's Lifetime Achievement award. He got through Charles's reference to "the steam-driven wireless" and to his own "helpless hysterics", before Milligan burst out in furious rebuttal. He could not, he explained, bear "a string of clichés... I had heard it all before". Say what you like about the unshaven old Goon, you have to admire his spirit. In an evening of schmaltz, he expressed the rage that dares not speak its name: the fury of the classic comedian trapped by his own heyday.

For to be a certain sort of performer, and to live a long life, is a fearful captivity. Sometimes, it must feel as if you have been tied down like Gulliver by adoring pignies. Steve Coogan may still quite enjoy people going "A-ha!" at

There's a limit to the number of old jokes an ageing comic can take

him in the supermarket, because the thrill of popular adoration is new. But ask Harry Enfield sometime if he likes having "Loadsamoney" shouted in the street, and he will probably have trouble being quite as kind. Then seek out that normally polite man, John Cleese, and gush about how brilliant it was when he flogged his car bonnet with a branch in *Fawlty Towers*. Believe me, he will change the subject fast. Another 20 years and he might hit you. If poor Tony Hancock were still alive, I doubt he would enjoy dinner parties where people said "Stone me!" at him and expected a joke in reply. He is better off where he is.

I speak with feeling because I, too, am a "little grovelling bastard". Not about the Goons, but about many other comedy moments. There are certain jokes which, in their content and the brilliance of their timing and tone, strike as deep into the soul as great music. They give such exqui-

site and lasting joy that those who laugh — especially if they are of a naturally melancholy temperament and grateful for the brief escape — never forget it. We cherish the moment in our innermost hearts, and are inclined to fall down and worship at the shrine of such a talent. You repeat the words like a mantra, cackling to yourself again and again (in private, if you are wise). Sometimes, with an almost holy joy, you discover another person who feels exactly the same about that joke. It is a deeply bonding experience. Happy marriages have been founded on little more than a shared adoration of *Round the Horne*.

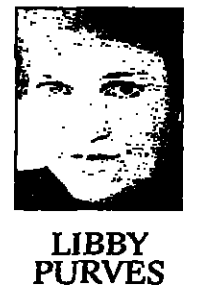
In our house we revere certain passages of Victoria Wood ("We're spunky in Cheddar — we totter on"), and numerous Hancock moments (especially the stiff gravy — "It's the goodness in it" — "It's the half a pound of flour you put in it"). Also a good deal of Alan Bennett, flashes of Dame Edna, the whole of

Cold Comfort Farm, and June Whitfield's riposte in *Absolutely Fabulous* to Edna's claim that there is a thin woman inside her ("Just the one, dear"). These things mean a lot. We would rather be burgled than forget them.

So who are we to sneer and cry "Sad anorak!" at people who do Goon voices or Ima impressions? Or who salute the loneliness of human life with recitations of the Dead Parrot sketch? We are all grovellers.

But then the dreamed-of moment comes. We meet the comedian, and find that he or she is impatient with our worship. Times change, professionals find new fields. Victoria Wood sometimes prefers to talk about the importance of new drama: John Cleese writes books with his psychiatrist Spike Milligan campaigns jockeys for noise abatement. They are serious, rounded people.

And oh, how we do not want them to be! We want them forever preserved in the golden amber of their few greatest jokes. We burble adoringly at them. And, once forgets his manners and tells us what little grovelling bastards we are. Thanks, Spike. We needed reminding.



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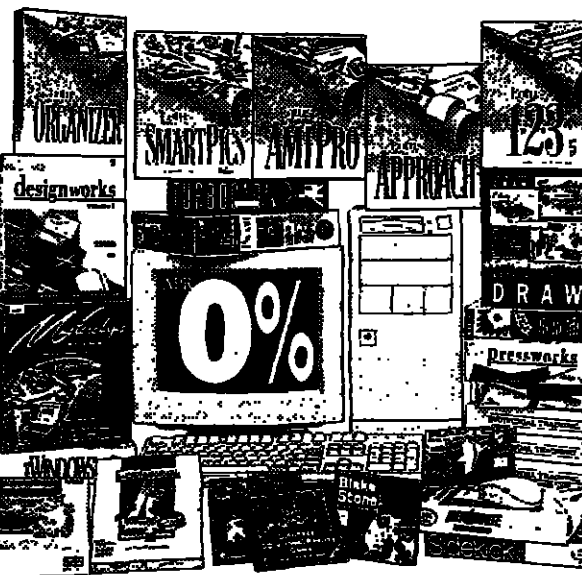
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Bright and bold, or dark and deadly, a manicure is essential

# Everybody's turning a brighter shade of nail

There is a renewed appreciation of grooming in fashion. Painted nails add the finishing touch to the whole look," says Polly Sellar, the beauty director of *Vogue*. "A weekly manicure is needed to look after nails. For the best results, it is better to have a professional manicure."

A weekly professional manicure? It's the stuff of dreams. However, as the designers once more become fascinated by high gloss and polish, the manicure is all part of fashion's new high-maintenance routine.

Blood red nails are the ultimate vampy, campy motif of the season. They act as a sign — sometimes neon bright — that you care about, and care for, your appearance. "It makes you feel incredibly good to have perfectly painted nails. There's no question that they give you confidence," says Chrissie Painell, Marie Claire's contributing beauty editor.

At the Copra Ball (the cosmetic and perfumery retailers' annual shindig which took place in London at the end of November), the favoured nail colour was red. Bright and bold, or dark and deadly. In New York at the recent spring-summer fashion preview shows nails were coloured red, on and off the catwalks.

Although the look suggests hours at the beauty salon, Anna-Marie Solowij, the beauty editor of *Elle*, believes in keeping the routine simple. She suggests applying a base coat. (A clear varnish is best, as it will not change the finished colour. Shu Uemura and Revlon have a quick-dry one which works as a base and top coat.) Add two coats of colour, painting one hand then the other hand then go back and apply the second coat on first hand, etc. Do not paint right down to the cuticle. Then apply a clear top coat.

The Italian manicure is best for shorter nails, as it gives the illusion of length. Paint a strip down the middle of the nail, overlapping with a strip down either side of the centre strip. Do not go right to the edge.

If you use a quick-dry top coat, nails should be touch-dry in a minute, but they will not be truly dry for up to six hours, so if possible avoid doing anything which might risk denting or scratching them. The perfectionist Solowij paints her nails last thing before going to bed and sleeps with her hands on her pillow.

If you wear a dark nail colour it is best to change it once a week. If nails become chipped do not remove the colour completely — sweep a cotton bud loaded with nail varnish remover across the damaged edge and reapply colour and top coat.

Chrissie Painell advises rolling the bottle upside down between the palms of the hands to mix the varnish, shaking the bottle creates air bubbles and can cause uneven application.

The one thing the professionals don't seem able to agree on is matching nail colour to skin tone. It seems that in the end it is a personal choice. Any colour, so long as it's red.



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**JUSTINE SOUTHALL**  
Advertising Director, *Marie Claire*  
Wearing: Roccoco Red, one of ten reds from Revlon



**GAIL GUYTON**  
Training director at Lancôme  
Wearing: a new colour from Lancôme — not yet available



**JANE DIVALL**  
Supreme Consultant finalist from Estée Lauder  
Wearing: Cherry, one of six reds from Estée Lauder



**DEIDRE VINE**  
Editor, *Woman's Journal*  
Wearing: Russian Roulette, Essie. (American brand)



**JOAN VON LEHMEN**  
Painting the town red at the recent New York fashion shows: dramatic colour on and off the catwalks

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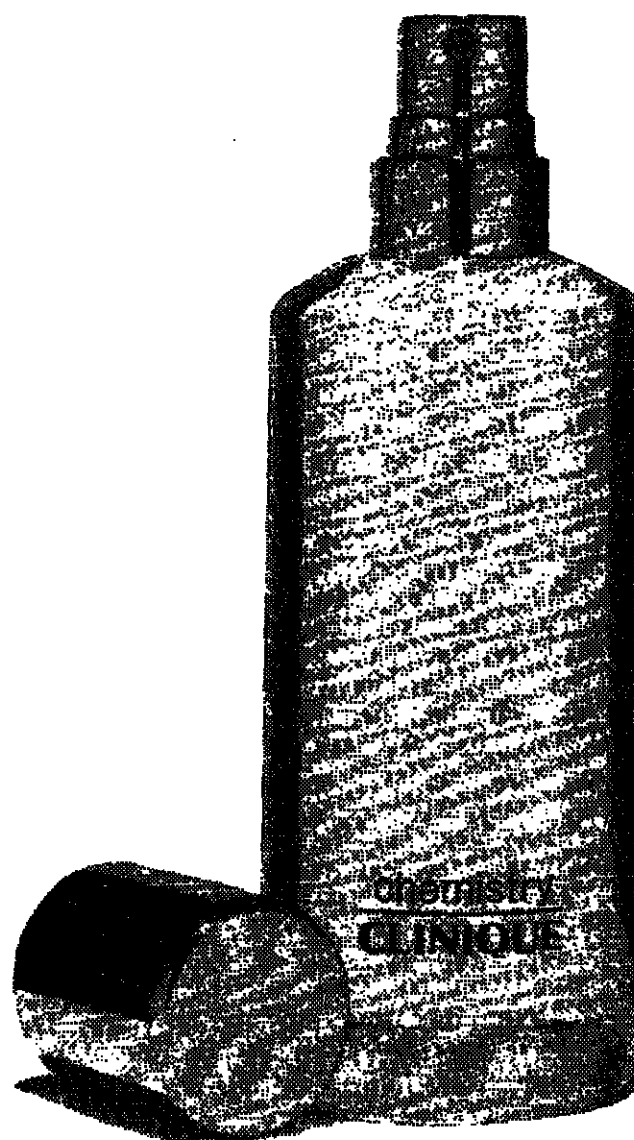
**ELLEN KEY**  
Consultant for Cartier jewellers in Glasgow  
Wearing: Capucine, one of 15 Guerlain reds



**JOANNA SPENCER**  
Marketing co-ordinator at Nina Ricci  
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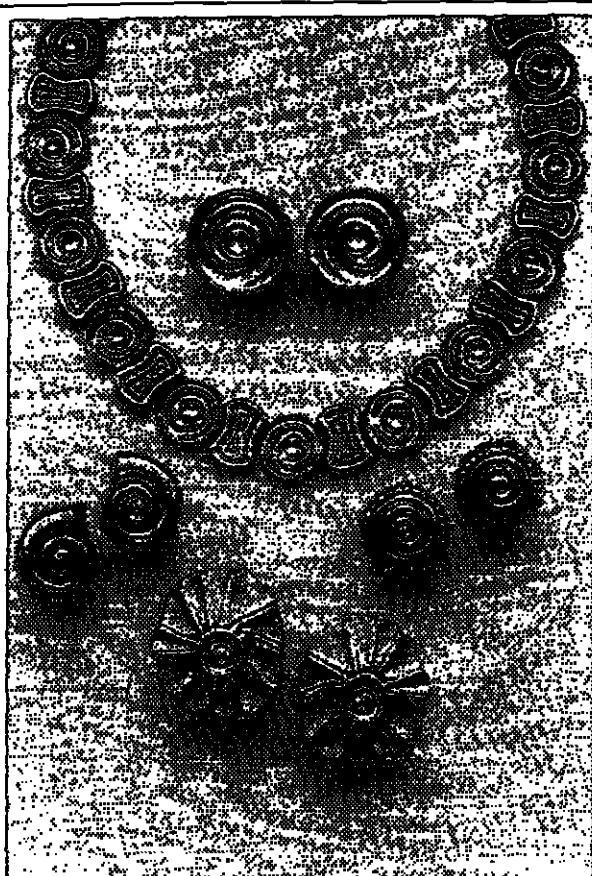
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## Alan Coren



■ Greece wants the Elgin marbles back; Wales should have its stones too

At a point in this island's history when each day's fresh crop of drear domestic news serves only to plummet the patriot heart further still and faster yet, what a joy it was to fall, quite unprepared, on Monday's *Times* headline: "Stonehenge dating dispels icesthet theory".

There is no theory I would rather have had dispelled. Ever since its first triumphalist mood by Flash Harry geologists in 1971, it has sunk my spirits whenever, in the lonely watches of the night, it has returned to mind: I smell the cold snap in the Pleistocene air. I hear the nascent glaciers crackle on the bluestone slopes of far Welsh hills, and then I see, bit by monolithic bit, the enormous slabs of limestone trundle eastwards to Wiltshire, there to thaw out, ready for simple assembly on an acon or so later when neolithic rambles out on some serendipitous lopsy cry: "Hallo, these look nice, give us a hand!", and, in more or less a trice, stand them up.

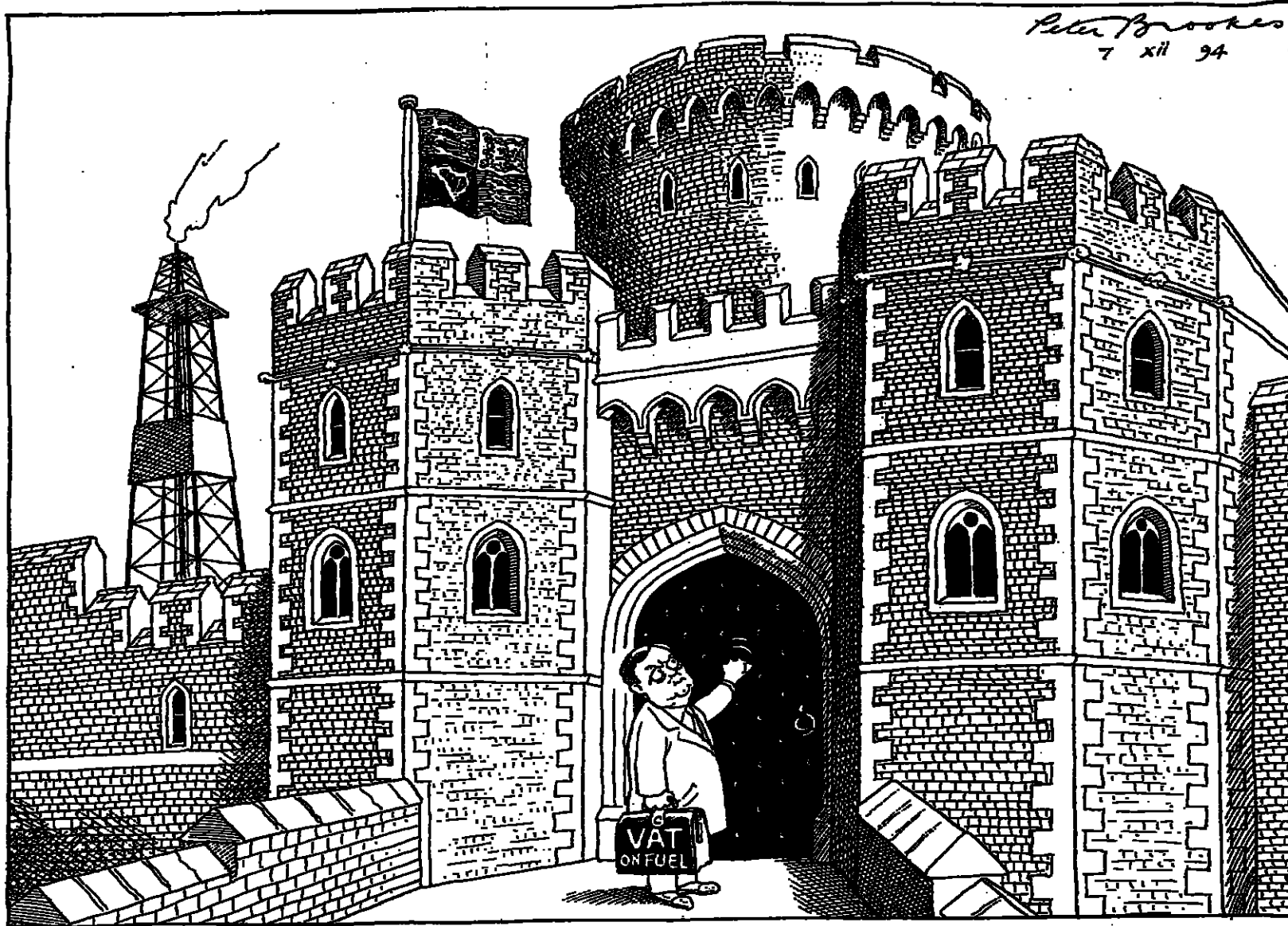
What a downer that theory was, as flat, cold, monochrome and cheerless as its epistemological nub! Compare it with every Briton's hitherto cherished conviction that these great big lumps from the astonishingly distant Preseli Mountains had fetched up 4,000 years ago on Salisbury Plain only because our sturdy Beaker ancestors had schlepped them there! More yet, beyond mere technological mystery or historical romance, the Great Stone Pile was Britain's membership card to the International Culture Club: it was not only our Anabasis, our Exodus, our Kon Tiki, it was our Sphinx, our Jus Romanum, our Orestia, it was the big one we pulled out whenever anyone accused us of gormlessly turning around in wood until Caesar came up with income tax and central heating. It showed we were somebody; it showed we were a contender.

And as yesterday, it shows it still, thanks to some nifty Chlorine-36 dating by Prof David Bowen proving the stones fell off their mountains a scant 14,000 years ago, 400 centuries too early to catch the last glacier out of Wales. What we always believed, prior to 1971, is true: they just lay there until the Beaker expedition turned up and, spotting that these were just what was needed to cobble a heliopolis, girded their loins, and lugged them back, miraculously, to Salisbury Plain.

How they did this, mind, remains unknown. While each of us has his own queries — did they push from behind or pull from the front, did they inveigle oxen, did they invent the wheel expressly for the job and subsequently jettison it because it had served its purpose (one being enough for anybody), did they, as I like to imagine, get under each slab in tough little droves and port it on their backs, much in the manner of ants rhythmically marching off with Donald Duck's picnic basket? — we may never get the answer to how this extraordinary thing was done.

Unless, that is, we go out and do it. For, like everyone else, I have been coddling my brains in the hope that one of my few fleeting cells might come up with a fitting way for Britain to celebrate the imminent millennium, and it occurred to me, the moment I spotted the icesthet rebuttal, that we could do very much worse than dismantle Stonehenge and throw open a national competition to get the 123 bluestone megaliths back to Wales, using only neolithic technology.

There would surely be no shortage of candidates for the 123 teams: who at, say, Cornhill Insurance, Burger King, The Sun, Barclays Bank, Greenpeace, The Really Useful Company, Virgin, CAMRA, Crinkly Bottom, or any other such great national institution would want to jump at the highly profitable opportunity of celebrating AD 2000 by demonstrating, with appealing symmetry, that Britain still had what it took in 2000 BC? Using, of course, only a notched stick. I have calculated that if they set off on January 1, each team would have to move its stone a mere 192 yards per day to get it to Preseli by New Year's Eve 2000, and this sounds to me to be so much of a doddle that I see no reason at all why even *The Times* should not manage to front up a credible equipt. I fully intend to be down at Wapping first thing tomorrow, selecting biceps.



# Yes, justice was done

Leaving individuals to avenge themselves on petty criminals — or even the innocent — leads only to greater lawlessness

The road to hell is paved not with good intentions but with fatuous headlines. None over the past week has been more outrageous than those attacking Mr Justice Roushier in the case of the allotment burglary.

The story, for those who have missed it, can be briefly told. Ted Newbery was an elderly gardener fed up with vandals. His likest allotment of nearly an acre included three greenhouses and a brick shed. He had lived in the latter for seven years, fitting it out as a fortress with barbed wire, running water, a cooker, television and a loaded, unlicensed shotgun. (If this was an allotment, said one report last week, then Chatsworth is a smallholding.)

One evening in 1988, two young men were heard outside the shed apparently meaning to force an entry. One of them, Mark Revell, received the full blast of Mr Newbery's gun, fired through a special hole in the shed door. He was hit in the chest, avoiding death by an inch. Badly wounded, he was carted off to prison for attempted burglary.

A jury at Derby Crown Court later acquitted Mr Newbery of unlawful wounding and of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. This was a generous view, both of the law and of Mr Newbery's intentions. The court heard that he gave no warning before firing, nor did he fire through the roof or otherwise scare off the intruders. The Derby jurors' thinking was, presumably, more fool Mr Revell, this will teach him a lesson and thank God the allotment-holders of Britain are standing up for law and order. Some doubtless also thought that if Parliament refuses to demand capital punishment for attempted theft, then the Ted Newberys of this world should be permitted a burst of gun law. In other words, good on Mr Newbery.

When Mr Revell came out of prison, he decided to sue Mr Newbery for his injuries, which cost him two fingers and the partial use of an arm. This might be thought a bit of a cheek. But the jury had taken the view that the shooting was, in effect, a private quarrel between the two men over and above the crime of burglary, for which Mr Revell had already gone to jail. Mr Newbery's maiming of Mr Revell was for the civil courts.

At this point, enter Mr Justice Roushier of Nottingham Crown Court. Last week he took the view, since he was asked, that Mr Newbery had got off lightly. He

had acted out of all proportion to the threat. Nobody doubted his anger that night in the shed. But he had planned the shooting, with the gun carefully positioned at a hole in the door. He fired at a range of five feet, which if not attempted murder was negligent to the point of recklessness. Given the injuries suffered by Mr Revell, civil compensation of £12,000 would normally have been payable. The judge reduced this to £4,000 on the reasonable grounds that two-thirds of the responsibility for the injuries rested with Mr Revell's burglary. But people who shoot other people, even burglars, could not escape all responsibility for the outcome. The court understood at the time that Mr Newbery's insurers would (for some reason) pay the bill.

On Mr Justice Roushier's head fell the damnation of an outraged world. He has been inundated with hate mail. Tory MPs have lined up to demand that the Home Secretary intervene. Rubicund and smiling, the judge has been portrayed in wig and gown as an 18th-century beak, out-of-touch with the common man. Newspapers have rushed to pay Mr Newbery's bill. *The Sun's* telephone jury received 70,000 calls in his support: "Buy more pellets" said a headline. "Next time between the eyes" said another. The mayor of Erewash, near Ilkeston, opened a relief fund. Money has poured in from as far away as Saudi Arabia. Lord Denning has protested — justifiably — at Mr Revell receiving legal aid, a matter that has nothing to do with the trial judge.

Yesterday Mr Justice Roushier was goaded into defending his judgment in letters to newspaper editors. He tried to convince them that, on balance, lynching law is not the best basis for justice. "Those who maintain that an owner/occupier is entitled to shoot a burglar whatever the circumstances should ask themselves where such a principle

would end. Is the farmer entitled to shoot with impunity the boy scrumping apples in his orchard? Somewhere a balance must be struck. This cannot be a matter of emotion. Parliament does not condone capital punishment. The courts should not condone attempted capital punishment.

I seem to be alone in agreeing with the judge. I believe Mr Newbery was wrong to shoot Mr Revell and that Mr Revell is entitled to some compensation, albeit not much (he has now donated it to charity). Consider a parallel case. Last January, many Britons were outraged in Houston, Texas. A householder, Jeffrey Agee, similarly shot through the door two men unknown to him who were banging on it. One of the men was killed outright. The reason for the outrage in this case was that the man was not a burglar but a Scotsman who had been out drinking and got lost, albeit at 4 o'clock in the morning. He had wandered round the back of a house in search of help. The dead man was from Dundee. His family sued the householder and received £180,000 in compensation.

No charges were pressed against Mr Agee. The police took the view that his action was justified in notional self-defence. He could not know that the men banging on his door were not burglars. In Texas the likelihood is that anyone prowling around your house after dark is up to no good. As a Houston police spokesman said, "You hear somebody banging on your door like that in the middle of the night, what are you going to do?"

The answer is that nowadays you can get away with doing what 70,000 *Sun* readers would support: shoot first and ask questions afterwards. To hell with gun control. To hell with proportionate response. An Englishman's allotment,

like a Texan's veranda, is his castle. No restraint need be shown in its defence. Property is sacred. Shoot to kill.

The concept of justifiable self-defence is legally intractable. By definition it offers individuals the right to take the law into their own hands. We instinctively fight to defend ourselves, our families and our property from attack. When we have a weapon to hand, the temptation is to use the ethics of the rugby scrum and "get the retaliation in first".

The law rightly tries to curtail what can easily become a sort of private lynch law. After the classic 1971 Privy Council pronouncement on self-defence (Palmer v Reginald), courts stress that it must be "necessary". It should be proportionate to the expected attack, and the threat of attack should be immediate. Violent self-defence should not be pre-planned, nor should it take place after the peril has passed (making it retaliation). Mr Newbery's action was pre-planned. He rigged up a gun to his door, a gun of which he was unlawfully in possession. It was patently disproportionate.

The reaction to the Ilkeston saga suggests that many Britons would like to go down "death-wish" road, even at the risk of more appalling accidents like the one in Houston. We are apparently content that unlicensed guns should be mounted at home, to be used on any nocturnal intruder. Soon we shall move to the predictable next step, and treat anybody knocking at the front door as a criminal. When approached by a stranger in the street, we shall assume hostile intent. If we panic and stab or gas him that will be his lookout. Strangers in the street are guilty until proved innocent — and they had better prove it fast.

That is not my sort of country. Of course theft is a plague and housebreaking a menace. But we make life less not more safe by using the existence of public crime to validate private violence. If American experience proves anything, it is that arming citizens to the teeth and leaving them to execute the law at will does not reduce violent crime. It initiates a domestic arms race. The chief victims are those killed and maimed by accident.

There is no alternative to a proper police force actively patrolling the streets. There is no substitute for the rule of law. Vigilantes make easy media heroes. They are a menace to the public good.

Simon Jenkins

## Full throated

THE COUGHS and splutters of Covent Garden audiences have reached unacceptable levels. The Royal Opera House is planning to offer free throat lozenges to opera-goers so that they do not spoil performances.

Cough sweets were offered in the foyer on Monday night for the first time at Verdi's *La Traviata*, after Sir Georg Solti, the conductor, complained about wheezing and gasping in the auditorium. Solti was concerned that live recordings of the performance would be muddled.

The audience, which included the Duke and Duchess of Kent, was informed of the free offer by Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the opera house, who appeared from the stage for everyone to avail themselves. "Apparently it worked well," he said. "I did it all the more feelingly knowing that if you have a tickly throat there is nothing more agonising."

Bowls of Tunes and Fisherman's Friends were offered round in the foyer. "They were all unwrapped," says Isaacs. "There are two intolerable things at the opera house: one is sitting next to someone who can't stop coughing; the second is some-

one unwrapping sweet papers." Isaacs points out that on Monday evening the BBC was recording, with a view to transmission on December 8, "And I am beginning to think that we should make this availability of free lozenges common practice."

● Oxford students are rushing to compete for a new literature prize: the Sir Kenneth Dover Memorial Prize for Crime Fiction, named after the former president of Corpus Christi who has admitted



willing the death of a colleague. Advertisements for applications have appeared on college noticeboards. I fear fraudsters at work.

### One's well

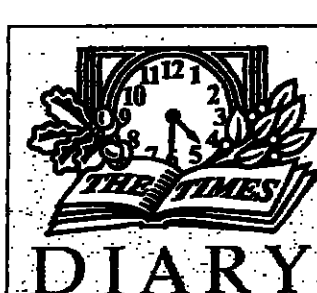
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN might fancy the revenue from an oilfield in the grounds of Windsor, but across the Thames they seem to be frowning on the vulgarity of such commercial ventures.

Tim Card, vice-president of Eton, makes clear that prospectors would not be welcome at the college. "I believe it is somewhat different terrain over here," he says. "The royalties would be extremely small. I had a friend who had a well and received only £45 a year. It wouldn't be worth our while."

### No oil painting

WESTMINSTER'S bad boy, Tony Banks, was spotted skulking from the House of Commons the other night with booty under his arm. It turned out to be a cross-eyed portrait of the 18th-century radical John Wilkes.

Banks says that the ugly rake, an outspoken MP and former Lord Mayor of London is his hero. "He was a debauched lecher," says Banks, "but he was a very great parliamentarian. I certainly



could not be compared to him. He got elected for Middlesex and then flung out of the Commons."

Banks bought the painting from the Commons authorities, which claim to have too many paintings of Wilkes. And the Labour MP for Newham North West is having it restored with specific instructions that Wilkes's squinty eyes should not be altered. "He was having an affair with the painter's wife, and I reckon the artist gave him cross-eyes to get his own back," says Banks.

### Stepping out

IT WASN'T only those on stage at the opening of Nigel Hawthorne's production of *The Clandestine Marriage* who were suffering first-night nerves on Monday. Dame Judi Dench and her husband, Michael Williams, sitting in

the stalls of London's Queen's Theatre, were the most jittery. For the play marked the West End debut of their only daughter, Finty, who plays a buxom chambermaid.

"Michael and I would have fought each other to be on the stage rather than in the stalls," said a shaken Finty afterwards. "We had seen Finty on tour, but we were still nervous. She was fine and she's going off with her friends to celebrate. We're just going home."

### Male order

THERE will be damp eyes and choked sobs in Conservative Central Office at the end of January, when Smith Square's chief broadcasting officer, Simon Brooke, de-cast off his full-time career as a male model, but this is mere speculation based on his recent extra-curricular activities.

Brooke is currently plastered over the cover of Benetton's department store catalogue, clad in a denim shirt and knitted waistcoat. He is grinning and holding a picnic basket. Central Office is sworn to secrecy, and Brooke, who has also posed for Boots, refuses to talk about his future. Benetton, however, is effusive. "He seemed a little shy at first but he did a great job, we would definitely hire



Brooke: another Tory loss

him again," says a spokesman, who remarked particularly on his "classy" looks.

● Prize for biggest wreath of the year goes to florists in Ireland who have combined across the North/South divide to make a peace-celebrating whopper, 6ft in diameter and weighing 5st. The wreath forms the "O" in Noël on a giant poster at a border crossing.

P-H-S

## Will they draft the General?

America may turn to Colin Powell, says Martin Fletcher

Fast-forward 14 months. President Clinton has only just escaped a humiliating defeat by Sam Nunn in the New Hampshire primary. Polls show him 18 points behind Colin Powell, who is running as an independent. In a sombre Oval Office address, he announces he is abandoning his re-election bid, freeing Vice-President Al Gore to launch what is bound to be a winning campaign for the Democratic nomination. A record 11 Republicans are meanwhile seeking the top spot on their party's ticket (their debates are chaos), and it is anyone's guess who will ultimately prevail.

Ridiculous, you say. Clinton the Comeback Kid would never quit voluntarily. Even if he wanted to, Hillary would not let him. Before the Democrats' crushing defeat in last month's congressional elections, Washington's Brahminical pundit class would have unanimously agreed with that, but now it is not so sure.

The odds are stacked against Clinton. He has irretrievably lost the South, the cornerstone of past Democratic presidential victories. He has lost the governorships of eight of America's nine largest states: Lloyd Bentsen, his hugely experienced Treasury Secretary, is battling out, but worst of all, he has lost Congress. New Gingrich's Republicans will do nothing to assist a hobbled president whom they loathe. They will kill what remains of his legislative programme and mount a two-year Whitewater Inquisition.

White House officials accept that a challenge for the Democratic nomination is now highly probable. Intra-party challenges to incumbent presidents are quite common, but highly debilitating. President Bush never recovered from wounds incurred by Pat Buchanan's rapier wit. Edward Kennedy's assault on President Carter facilitated Ronald Reagan's 1980 triumph. But the most pertinent example is that of Lyndon Johnson, who was compelled to abandon his re-election bid, when Eugene McCarthy scored 42 per cent in the 1968 New Hampshire primary.

Mr Clinton could well be similarly embarrassed in 1996, at which point Democratic luminaries would surely begin urgently debating whether Mr Gore, the Administration's "resident grown-up" and one conspicuous success, was not their only hope of retaining the White House. David Boren, the newly-retired Oklahoma senator, has already said Mr Clinton should "seriously consider" standing down.

The Vice-President would do nothing to initiate such a move, having been completely loyal, but he admits that it would like to be President one day. He has played his cards astutely. He has avoided any association with disasters like healthcare, homosexuals in the military and Whitewater, while promoting popular initiatives such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, streamlining the federal government and building an "information superhighway". His approval rating is 15 to 20 points higher than his boss's.

The other great imponderable of 1996 is General Powell, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. His wife, Alma, is reluctant to see him run, and he has done nothing to encourage the intense speculation about a Powell candidacy. Equally, however, he has done nothing to discourage it. My own hunch is that General Powell will be unable to resist this ultimate challenge, and will use next September's publication of his autobiography to launch an independent candidacy.

He admitted in a little-noticed speech in Cleveland last month that he was "thinking about the issues" and "developing a political philosophy", and said a third party in 1996 would be "wonderful". He was registered as an independent in New York before moving to Washington. He gave money to both independent candidates, Ross Perot in last month's Virginia Senate election. He has nothing in common with the aggressive young "New-old" conservatives now running the Republican Party, and would in any case balk at subjecting himself to the brutal primaries of either of the two established parties.

Could General Powell become America's first independent president? It is far from impossible. He is America's most admired and trusted man. He is an inspirational leader and hero in a country starved of both. He is the embodiment of the American Dream, the poor kid from the Bronx who became America's top military commander and truly made his blackness immaterial. He enjoys an extraordinary moral authority at a time when Americans feel nothing but cynicism towards Washington's career politicians, and is a terrific communicator to boot. A recent poll gave him a remarkable 74 per cent approval rating.

Doubters say money would be a problem, but Powell already has matchless name-recognition. They say Powell's support would rapidly contract when he was forced to take stands on controversial issues, but he could set the agenda, rather than responding to it. He could point to the way he transformed the armed forces, demoralised after Vietnam, into a more running efficiency, purpose and cohesion, and could promise to do the same for the nation.

Already three "Draft Powell" movements have sprung up. He himself told the story of how he was driving on the New Jersey turnpike when a car passed him, dropped back for a few minutes, then drew level. This time, pressed to its window, was a handwritten sign proclaiming "Colin Powell for President".

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Major has lost author...

...the Tory...  
...the Tory...  
...the Tory...

## DRAMATIC

The National Theatre look...

...the National Theatre look...  
...the National Theatre look...  
...the National Theatre look...

## PAST A

A scholar whose work...

...A scholar whose work...  
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...A scholar whose work...

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## THE TORY SICKNESS

John Major has lost authority, some MPs have lost respect

A form of collective insanity — mad MP disease, perhaps — has broken out at Westminster in the past few weeks. In the old days, only members of the Labour Party used to succumb to this infection. Its symptoms include failing to care what effects the sufferer's actions have on the standing of the party's leadership; and becoming oblivious as to whether the party wins or loses the subsequent general election. The disease is brought on by giving firmly held beliefs precedence over the interests of the party. But, as the illness becomes more severe, even the importance of the ideology concerned is overtaken by the exhilaration brought on each time the sufferer indulges in yet another act of mutiny.

This is the state in which the Conservative Party now finds itself. Parliamentary discipline depends upon authority and respect for authority. John Major has lost authority over his party and many of his MPs have lost their respect for him. He has already used the two most fearsome weapons at his disposal: threatening a general election and withdrawing the whip from rebels. But nobody in his administration can have believed that, even with these two deterrents hanging over them, as many as eight MPs would still have voted against the Government in the European budget vote and that a ninth would choose to relinquish the whip afterwards.

The result was the first known occasion on which a governing party has voluntarily given up its parliamentary majority. Last night's VAT-on-fuel vote was certainly made more difficult by the previous week's events. Although the Prime Minister's leadership of the party was not challenged formally last Wednesday, MPs from all sides of the party have been busy undermining him ever since. Members as diverse as Kenneth Baker, Peter Temple-Morris and George

Gardiner have criticised the Prime Minister's tactics in the past few days. It is almost as if next November's leadership campaign is already under way.

So the events that came to a head last night were precipitated by a series of mistakes. Mr Major never needed to call a vote of confidence on the European Bill in the first place. He compounded the error by not waiting until the last minute to do so. By announcing it so early, he gave potential rebels nearly two weeks to mass, to plan tactics and to win the support of their constituency associations. And using Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee, as his mouthpiece was both insulting and provocative to many.

The VAT vote will not be the last occasion on which the Prime Minister will now be at the mercy of his rebels, including those from whom he has withdrawn the whip. Later this week comes another vote on the European Communities (Finance) Bill. And, although the whips have been trying to dispose of the trickiest Bills early on in the parliamentary session, there are bound to be more controversies in the months ahead. Under this administration, whenever the temperature rises, forest fires have a habit of unexpectedly flaring up. Cutting mortgage help for the unemployed, for instance, is exactly the sort of issue on which MPs might suddenly feel impelled to rebel, even though there is no hint of mutiny yet.

Mr Major now looks like a Prime Minister struggling on from week to week, increasingly frustrated by the antics of his party, but unable to lift his eyes to the horizon or to exert the authority needed to command the unthinking loyalty that used to be expected of Tory MPs. Most of his MPs think that they will lose the next election: a few would prefer to go down gloriously (in their own eyes) than to simply sink with the ship.

## DRAMATIC FLAGSHIP

The National Theatre looks to replace its quiet captain

Richard Eyre's announcement that he will step down as director of the National Theatre in September 1997 comes as no surprise. As he put it yesterday, "I am not jumping ship: I thought after ten years somebody else should have a go."

What does come as a pleasant surprise is the seaworthiness of the ship after Mr Eyre's captaincy. When he took over in 1988, the National often behaved more like a pirate schooner than the nation's theatrical flagship. There was sporadic mutiny of the unions below decks and permanent displays by assorted Long John Silvers flying their egos above. There was chronic trouble in the rigging and the engine room. More drama was performed off-stage than on, and the captain was not above climbing on a barrel to denounce the meanness towards the arts of the First Lord of the Admiralty and all her Cabinet. Of course, there were frequent flashes of theatrical brilliance and gaudy nights. But the forecast was generally for squalls, smoke and financial crisis with no map of hidden Arts Council treasure.

On his appointment to follow his extrovert and starry predecessors, Laurence Olivier and Peter Hall, Mr Eyre was regarded as a dull captain. His "shy strength", as described by Sir Peter in his South Bank memoirs, seemed too gentle to survive the inevitable shot directed at such an exposed position. But for most of his tenure he has reconciled the irreconcilables of box office success, critical acclaim, good publicity and the approval of his paymasters.

He has managed the even more improbable task of running a happy ship and being well liked in a profession inclined to jealousy, vanity and self-serving malice. In Genista McIntosh he found an excellent executive director to complement his talents.

He added the new brilliance of old musicals such as *Gyps and Dolls* and *Carousel*: and these went on to make fortunes in the commercial theatre. But he also invited experimental outside companies such as *Complicité* and *Cheek by Jowl* to take over his stages. At a dim time for the commercial theatre, such artistic and commercial successes as Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*, Alan Bennett's dramatisation of *The Wind in the Willows*, the David Hare trilogy and *An Inspector Calls* have been the brightest lights in town — sometimes, it has seemed, the only lights. While Broadway waned and dwindled, the National has maintained London's reputation as the theatrical capital of the English-speaking world, and a visit there has become an essential and exhilarating stop on the tourist trail.

So whoever succeeds Mr Eyre will inherit a great institution and a hard act to follow. He or she may well be one of the bright directors he has discovered and selflessly brought on. Candidates for the most powerful job in British theatre should also be excellent at judging a play, innovative, and first-class at administration, public relations and actor-management. It would help if they were as amiable and free from prima-donnaism as their predecessor.

Mr Eyre said yesterday he was not resigning "in a spirit of melancholy or despair or exhaustion". Of course not. Ten years is enough in any big creative-cultural-administrative job. Under his command, the National has become a professional and thriving national institution in a field in which Britain excels. We are fortunate in our wealth of theatrical directors of talent, flair, youth and even genius. Mr Eyre's successor can be chosen from a glittering cast. That too is a fact of which Britain can be proud.

## PAST MASTER

A scholar whose work will survive revisionism

Sir Geoffrey Elton, who died at the weekend, was by no means the greatest stylist of his time. The writing of Hugh Trevor-Roper and A. L. Rowse, for example, is more vivid than Elton's dense monographs on the Tudor period. E. P. Thompson and Herbert Butterfield, likewise, made a far greater political impact than this diligent scholar. Yet Elton will still be remembered as a towering figure in British historical writing, whose work is likely to survive the onslaught of revisionism.

More perhaps than any Briton this century, he exemplified the virtues of the empiricist school of history. Not for Elton the fashionable theory of his continental contemporaries or the anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist posturing of left-wing historians in this country. In his 1967 primer *The Practice of History*, he argued that laborious work with documents must remain the bedrock of all research into the past. Without this foundation, no analysis or theorising could be taken seriously. National history, he warned, was too important to sacrifice on the altar of intellectual vogue. The survival of traditionalist history in British schools and universities owes much to his reason.

Elton's successors — many of whom he taught — have not been kind to him. Revisionist historians have attacked the claims he made for Tudor statecraft and ecclesiastical reform in *The Tudor Revolution in Government* and the books that

followed. Elton's opponents argue that factional politics played a far greater part in the history of the 16th century than the development of modern government and that Henry VIII's religious reforms were much less successful than Protestant propagandists claimed.

It is certainly true that Elton overestimated the administrative genius of Thomas Cromwell, Henry's principal policymaker. But his arguments cannot be dismissed wholesale. He was right to emphasise the peculiarity of the royal supremacy in the Church, the growing importance of Parliament, and the success of Tudor bureaucratic reforms. Britain was not a modern state in 1603 when Elizabeth I died. But it was undeniably a precocious nation, far advanced in its development of a national church, a complex governmental machine and a sophisticated constitution.

The flaw of revisionist history has been its tendency to exaggerate continuities in the past and to obscure areas in which Britons were genuinely progressive or innovative. In their more extreme arguments, the revisionists have been too zealous to prove that there is nothing exceptional about this country. Their welcome objectivity about the past has occasionally descended into cynicism. In contrast, Elton's work will survive as a useful example of patriotic writing based on meticulous scholarship. Britain has lost one of the greatest champions of its past genius.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Timing crucial for any British referendum on Europe

From Mr Andrew Cruickshank

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Major's unmarked minefield") and at least one of your correspondents today discuss reasons why it might prove difficult to hold a referendum on Europe. This is because they seem to me to assume that the only time such a referendum could be held would be after the 1996 Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) and this gets them hung up on what the question might be.

The evidence of Maastricht and last week's "suicide pact" over more funds for Europe shows that Mr Major could not, with honour, hold a referendum after he has negotiated a position at the IGC. Therefore, the only option is to hold it before 1996. Fortunately, this would also make the "question" easier to frame, eg: "Should the UK Government accept any further moves towards closer political union in Europe?"

Such a question would satisfy the criterion set out by Woodrow Wyatt ("What the papers don't say", December 1) that it must be on the basis of "thus-far-and-no-further". It is not enough for it to relate only to a "substantial alteration to Britain's sovereignty" (leader, November 29), because this immediately raises a problem of definition. Anyway, Euro-philosophes will be quite happy for a federal Union to develop by a series of "substantial" steps, if needs be.

The history of this Government has been to present every fudge and retreat in Europe as a victory — every bad deal as a good deal because it might have been worse. In Parliament, measures which benefit Europe are bludgeoned through on votes of "confidence" — devices used when the underlying measures inspire no confidence at all. Armed with the clear verdict of the British people, their Government would have no need to resort to such subterfuge.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW CRUICKSHANK,  
The Doone,  
Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey,  
December 5.

From Mr Imre Lake

Sir, Leaving aside the constitutional and political arguments for holding a referendum on any change in our relationship with Europe, I suspect that the knowledge that such a referendum would be held before any deal was rat-

ified would go a long way to ensuring that our negotiators were offered and obtained the best possible terms.

The knowledge that the deal could not be concluded simply between politicians but would require general consent would be a powerful force ensuring good behaviour from all parties concerned.

Yours faithfully,  
IMRE LAKE,  
62 Regent's Park Road, NW1,  
December 6.

From the Editor of New European

Sir, I believe we get very confused today about the nature of popular opinion. Fashions spread through populations and often pass as rapidly as they arrive. Politicians do well to dismiss such fashions but they make a grave mistake if they fail to perceive, and respond to, the powerful underlying wishes of their electorate.

Your report on the results of an opinion poll, "Germans less keen on EU than British" (later editions, December 5), shows an underlying trend that is evident in both countries and that ought to be responded to, not necessarily by referendums, but by governments not trying to rush too far ahead of their publics.

Oddly enough, the genuine "Euro-sceptics" views are the ones that best represent the settled opinion of the people, but that does not mean that they are anti-European or that those who are should use a referendum simply as a stage in getting out of the Common Market, as Peter Riddell suggested they probably would.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN COLEMAN,  
Editor, *New European*,  
14-16 Carroun Road, SW8,  
December 5.

From Mr Robert Sheaf

Sir, Many of your readers must have been saddened by the letter about the Norwegian "no" vote (December 3) from two members of the European Anti-Maastricht Alliance.

How can Norway consider itself to be "an active part of the international community" while turning its back on the international community on its doorstep? And how has it advanced the cause of its own self-government by rejecting the chance to share in the wider economic and commercial decisions taken by the EU?

### Rural economy

From Mr Robin Lalonde

Sir, Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton (letter, November 18) is to be applauded for putting his finger on the right button, not so much in respect of his subject, the National Lottery, more for the long-term survival and prosperity of all the facets that make up the countryside.

Our countryside is a matter of immense concern to all of us, whether we live and work in towns or in the country. Its villages and communities have in the past been supported by all the vital but now diminishing services to include incidentally the village school and pub. Every effort must be made to reverse the decline.

The problem is that rural services are difficult to sustain in the face of both the convenience and monopoly of large stores and services in nearby towns, and the car.

The countryside is the desirable place it is because it has been nurtured for generations by countrymen and women, and financed by returns generated principally by agriculture. Farming — the production of our food — will remain the dominant industry, but diversified enterprises must be

in or out, Norway will be profoundly affected by such decisions — decisions which, in the modern world, can be taken only by the EU. The tragedy is that we need the Norwegians, so stalwart and independent-minded, inside the EU. They could give vital help to prevent the EU from developing into the monster so many of them mistakenly seem to think it is already.

Norway, we shall miss you. Please think again.  
Yours etc,  
R. SHEAF,  
3 Mansfield Gardens,  
Didcot, Oxfordshire,  
December 3.

From Mr Eric R. Bevington

Sir, Like many others I am uneasy about Maastricht, but one thing the Euro-sceptics have not explained is how they see this country surviving, let alone prospering, outside Europe.

Some 40 per cent or more of our trade is now with the European Union and enjoys tariff-free entry. Do they propose that our people should work for lower wages to produce cheaper goods so as to offset the loss of tariff-free entry?

The Euro-sceptics' arguments have been wholly negative. Economically speaking, is there any realistic alternative to being in the Union?

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC R. BEVINGTON,  
Holmans Cottage,  
Bisterne Close,  
Bury, Ringwood, Hampshire,  
December 5.

From Mrs Victoria Jessup

Sir, I am outraged at Mrs Teresa Gorman's remark in her interview with Valerie Grove (December 2): "We know Europe works on backhanders and backsheesh, that fraud and corruption have an entirely different meaning over there in Greece and Italy ... and every other French mayor has his hand in the till." Who is this "we"?

If she is referring to members of the British public I wish she would leave me out — especially as my brother-in-law is a French mayor.

Yours faithfully,  
VICTORIA JESSUP,  
Mumford House,  
Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent,  
December 2.

given active support. These, in turn, should in theory help to bring about the return of at least some of the services.

Of crucial importance is the acceptance by town and country planners of a flexible and commonsense approach to rural industry based on commercial realism, and taking into account not only local interests, but also pressures on our few remaining unspoiled areas and all aspects of wildlife. Individual enterprise is there if it is positively encouraged. If this is not commercially practical, what is the future?

The Secretaries of State for Agriculture and the Environment, Mr William Waldegrave and Mr John Gummer, are to be congratulated for having jointly announced the production of a White Paper to cover every aspect of the countryside and the rural economy (report, earlier editions, October 13). They will receive help from all organisations and interests concerned. Mr Leigh-Pemberton's *cri de coeur* well illustrates that time is of the essence.

Yours truly,  
ROBIN LALONDE  
(Chairman, Hampshire Branch,  
Country Landowners' Association),  
Barton Farm Barn, Andover Road,  
Winchester, Hampshire.

### Runway capacity

From Air Commodore W. D. Robertson, RAF (retd)

Sir, The Department of Transport working group which examined runway capacity in the South East and reported in July last year found that another full-scale runway at Heathrow would mean demolishing 3,300 houses (including 43 listed buildings), or at Gatwick excavating a cutting ten times the size of that at Twyford Down and destroying 55 listed buildings.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has pointed out that either proposal would mean the largest single destruction of listed buildings.

Such devastation is unlikely to be politically acceptable, and it is interesting that the Chairman of the British Air Transport Association (letter, December 2) is now suggesting new runways located closer to the existing ones.

While this idea needs examination it may well prove less satisfactory operationally while still causing serious environmental damage. Moreover, there is a legal agreement which rules out any additional runway at Gatwick until at least 2019.

It would seem more sensible to make better use of the runways already in existence at other UK airports, including Stansted.

Yours sincerely,  
W. D. ROBERTSON,  
Parkhouse Farm, Leigh, Surrey,  
December 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

### Use VAT on fuel to help the needy?

From Mr Colin MacIvor

Sir, As a pensioner may I disassociate myself from the propaganda war being waged purportedly on my behalf against VAT on domestic fuel (letters, November 28, December 1)? Today the well-off can keep their radiators boiling, their chandeliers blazing and their swimming pools steaming at a reduced tax rate while the poor of all ages have to pay full VAT on warm clothing and fuel-efficient storage heaters. In these energy-conscious times it surely makes no sense at all positively to encourage needless consumption of fuel by tax concessions.

If VAT hits the poorest hardest by adding really — though marginally — to their living costs, then they should be recompensed fairly, even generously. Let precious fuel be taxed the same as practically everything else and let some of the ensuing revenue be used to help the actual poor. I do wish my self-appointed champions — be they luminaries of politics or religion — would do a little simple arithmetic. Admittedly common sense is not as much fun as moral indignation, but it is a better guide to action.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN MACIVOR,  
59 Fernhead Road, W9,  
December 1.

### Overseas aid

From Mr Robert Archer

Sir, The Overseas Development Administration claims that overseas aid will rise in 1997-98 ("Overseas aid budget to rise by £146m", December 1). In fact, its own figures show that aid expenditure will not increase in real terms between 1993-94 and 1997-98, and it will actually fall next year by £100 million.

As the Government now combines aid figures for Eastern Europe and Third World countries, it can no longer say in advance how much aid will go to the poorest countries. But bilateral aid to some of the poorest areas will certainly fall. The ODA informed the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee earlier this year, for example, that bilateral aid to Africa will fall by £60 million between 1994-95 and 1996-97.

Well-targeted aid can help very poor countries remain stable. Governments are spending more and more of their falling aid budgets on vastly expensive relief programmes, whereas the main objective should be to prevent countries like Rwanda and Somalia from sliding into chaos. Aid in time rather than after the event would save lives as well as money.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT ARCHER  
(Policy Co-ordinator),  
Christian Aid,  
PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT,  
December 1.

### UN responsibilities

From Sir Brian Urquhart

Sir, Sir Peter Smithers (letter, December 2) seems to believe that the responsibilities of the Secretary-General of the United Nations are analogous to those of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and urges Dr Bouros Boutros Ghali to emulate the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and "stay home and mind the shop". He is under an extraordinary misapprehension.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has both specific and less well-defined responsibilities for UN operations in the field, for day-to-day direction of which he is responsible. In times of severe crisis he has an obligation, both to the Security Council and to his people in the field, to make every possible effort to resolve urgent problems, no matter what the risk to his person or his reputation.

In such circumstances the Secretary-General is not, in Sir Peter's preposterous phrase, being "tempted by the role of film star". He is simply doing his job.

Yours sincerely,  
BRIAN URQUHART  
(Under-Secretary-General,  
United Nations, 1974-86),  
131 E. 66th Street, New York,  
December 4.

### Nodding donkeys

From Mr J. Haworth

Sir, May we hope for the new year that the Queen will strike oil (report, later editions, December 6) and the politicians stop boring?

Yours truly,  
J. HAWORTH,  
Pendle Wood, Cothill Road,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,  
December 6.

### Taking them out

From Mr Robert Dickinson

Sir, I was intrigued to read about the RAF's dummy attacks on a red telephone kiosk in Yorkshire (report and photograph, December 6). In view of the announcement on a business page, could they not use real bombs on the discontinued Mercury payphones?

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. DICKINSON,  
37 Brookwood Road, SW11,  
December 6.

### Parents as truants

From Mrs Maria Cope

Sir, How is Mr Michael Adams (letter, November 29) going to interpret the number of parents attending annual parents' meetings? My experience is that it is only when parents are dissatisfied that large numbers attend. The fewer parents the better.

Yours faithfully,  
MARIA COPE,  
43 Rossmore Court, Park Road, NW1,  
November 24.

### Town twinnings

From Mr Ian Miller

Sir, Perhaps the Rutlanders mentioned by His Honour Judge Finney (letter, November 25) have been twinned with the village of Paris, Vaillac, Lot, which boasts two homesteads, one of which belongs to my niece. She has never mentioned any revelries in the other half of the village, although I am sure they would welcome an exchange with another very small hamlet in a wilder part of the UK.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN MILLER,  
Coombe Cottage, 36 Gloucester Road,  
Thornbury, Bristol,  
November 26.

From Mr Graham M. Cotton

Sir, Perhaps Judge Finney's small village in Rutland is linked with Paris, Pennsylvania (pop. 700).

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM COTTON,  
Bay Tree Cottage,  
The Street, Kilmington, Wiltshire,  
November 25.

### Sanctity of the home

From Mrs Fiona Duggan

Sir, I challenge the Reverend Jonathan Blake's claim to have performed the first "ceremonial baptism" in a private home (report and photograph, December 5).

Ceremonial or not, I was baptised at the home of my grandparents in a suburban semi in Liverpool in 1955. The ceremony was performed by the Anglican chaplain at the hospital where my grandfather was an administrator. The baptism took place at home simply because everybody involved liked the idea.

The bowl used to hold the holy water still survives on the coffee table in my sitting room.

Yours faithfully,  
FIONA DUGGAN,  
Jump's Barn, Blythe Lane,  
Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire,  
December 5.

### Lottery ceremonial

From Mr Michael Abbott

Sir, The National Lottery machines supplied by Canelot are too efficient. One gulp and your entry is swallowed and a receipt rather like a supermarket ticket for soap powder appears.

There should be a flashing of lights, a ringing of bells, a proper voucher which encapsulates the hope of winning, with a slight air of sin all around.

Yours hopefully,  
MICHAEL P. ABBOTT,  
56 Tordill Street,  
Minster, Ramsgate, Kent.







OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR NORMAN ANDERSON

Professor Sir Norman Anderson, OBE, QC, Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in the University of London, 1959-76, died on December 2 aged 86. He was born on September 29, 1908.

THE death of Norman Anderson has brought to an end not one distinguished career but two. One lay in serving the law and the other in serving the Church. If the former furnished his temporal needs, the latter, manifestly more important to him, gave him an inner strength and steadfastness of purpose.

James Norman Dalrymple Anderson was educated at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate. His legal career began auspiciously with firsts at Trinity College, Cambridge. Thereafter he was too busy overseas — and later in academic work — ever to complete his professional examinations and thus was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn only in 1965 — taking silk a mere nine years later.

His knowledge of North Africa and the Arabic language enabled him to serve in the Second World War in various posts connected with Arab affairs and by 1944, as a colonel, he was Chief Secretary of the Political Section of GHQ Middle East. For these services he was appointed MBE in 1943 and advanced to OBE in 1945.

Anderson's academic life began with his appointment in 1947 as lecturer in Islamic Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies. His progress in this speciality to Reader in Oriental Laws (1951) and Professor (1953) paralleled the rapid growth of the School. As head of its department of law for almost twenty years his influence was considerable. He, more than any other scholar, embodied the teaching of Islamic law in England.

Side by side with his university appointments, he lectured in the subject at the Council of Legal Education continuously from 1954. Those who sat at his feet were for the most part oriental students. Anderson's lectures became for Islamic lawyers as much a source of inspira-



Sir Norman Anderson, centre, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan, left, and the Archbishop of York, Dr Stuart Blanch, in Dean's Yard, Westminster, in 1979

Academically, Anderson's most important appointment was that of Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in the University of London, a post he occupied with ability from 1959 to 1976. In those years, constantly sustained by the university administration and helped by his academic colleagues and by his two outstanding secretary-librarians, Howard Drake and Willie Steiner, Anderson made of the institute not only a very fine library and centre of legal research, but a most congenial meeting place for legal

gatherings, both national and international.

The director's excellent relations with American universities and the Ford Foundation led, among other benefactions, to the establishment of a valuable series of annual "workshops" on legal topics of an international interest. But perhaps the activity in which the institute achieved its most widely-known success was the series of evening round-table discussions by groups of lawyers with those from other fields, such as theology, economics and sociology.

Many will recall the charm, courtesy and discernment with which Anderson presided over these meetings, stretching over many years and

many topics but seldom, if ever, involving Islamic law. But it was his distinguished scholarship in Islamic law that was recognised by his election to the British Academy in 1970 and by his appointment as Queen's Counsel in 1974. By that time he had served both as Dean of the Faculty of Laws in the University of London and as president of the Society of Public Teachers of Law.

Norman Anderson's parallel career in the service of Christianity took shape when he left Cambridge to enter the mission field in 1932 and work with the Egypt General Mission. This interest and this area gave him the opportunity to develop a study of Arabic that proved so valuable in the war years and later.

The link between law and religion lies obviously in Islam and Arabic is the key to that world.

A leading Evangelical, his constant interest in missionary work was finally crowned by the presidency of the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society. As president of the Church Pastoral Aid Society Anderson found further scope at home for encouraging his own brand of churchmanship. He was a lay reader and had been a member of the Church Assembly; accordingly, he was well chosen, on the basis of his devoted service and demonstrated ability, as the first chairman of the House of Laity (1970-79) in the General Synod of the Church of England. It was in this period that parliamentary control was much relaxed over Church affairs.

The knighthood, which came to Anderson in 1975, was particularly a tribute to his work for the Church. Indeed, it is in this area that most of Anderson's writings, at least after three initial legal works, are to be found. It was thus appropriate that the honorary doctorate of St Andrews, which he received with such satisfaction in 1974, was one in Divinity, and not in Law.

For Norman Anderson, as for his friends, there seemed no incompatibility between his two careers. Each formed a corollary to the other, and their concurrence at certain points, such as in institute discussions among lawyers and theologians, seemed normal, natural and most valuable.

In later life he suffered stoically the cruel fate of surviving all his three children — his only son Hugh died in 1970 shortly after serving as president of the Cambridge Union. None of his friends will ever forget the example his father gave of faith transcending tragedy. It was a modest consolation to him that he was able to remain in his post as director in order to see the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies remove safely into its long-awaited new home, a transition to which he had devoted infinite thought and care.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, whom he married in 1933.

HIS HONOUR JUDGE RICHARDSON

His Honour Judge Richardson, QC, Circuit Judge, died in a London hospital of a stroke on December 5 aged 68. He was born on July 28, 1926.

KENNETH RICHARDSON followed a distinguished career as a Crown Prosecuting Counsel with six notable years on the Bench. At the Old Bailey, where he was a resident judge, he was noted for his good tempered handling of cases and his ability to delve deeply into both sides of the argument. He soon established a reputation for his extreme fairness, never allowing the emotions of his court to get out of control even when confronted with graphic or unpleasant evidence.

With his polite, easy-going style, he had the knack of putting witnesses and even the accused at their ease. It was not in his nature to rough up counsel either. Indeed, in spite of his background as a prosecutor, he had been known to suggest to the defence lines of approach that they might not have considered.

Kenneth Albert Richardson was educated at Ruffin School in North Wales and Merton College, Oxford, where he graduated in English and Jurisprudence. He did his National Service with the Royal Welch Fusiliers and was attached to the 8th Punjab Regiment. In 1952 he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple where he was a Harmsworth Scholar and was, later in his career, to become a Benchers.

Joining a set of chambers which concentrated on criminal work, he made his way up through the magistracies courts and the old County of London Sessions to more exacting cases. At the Bar he became known as a solid and sensible performer, not given to theatrical gestures in court and always exhibiting great fairness. These were qualities which later stood him in good stead when he was elevated to the Bench.

After 15 years in practice he became a Junior Prosecuting Counsel to the Crown in 1967, progressing to be a Senior Prosecuting Counsel in 1973 and after eight years going on to become First Senior Prosecuting Counsel at the Central Criminal Court in 1981.

In 1984 he came very much into the news when he received an apology from the *Mail on Sunday* and was paid "large damages" and costs by Associated Newspapers after an article published in the paper had libellously alleged that he had been dismissed by

the then Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, because of criticism of his handling of the prosecution case in an espionage trial; this was the so-called Mata Hari spy case, in which the defendant, a Cyprus-based RAF man, had been acquitted. The paper also made a number of other false allegations for which it apologised.

In the following year Richardson took silk. It had, for a number of years been a criticism of Crown prosecutors that they tended to be translated to the Bench often after a long period in which they had had no experience of defending cases, and that they were not therefore in the requisite impartial frame of mind necessary to discharge their duties satisfactorily.

In spite of his own lengthy experience as a Crown prosecutor, colleagues did not regard Richardson as a naturally prosecution-minded man; nevertheless he was able to make use of the three years after taking silk to gain further experience in defending cases, before he became a Circuit Judge in 1988. He had been a Recorder of the Crown Court since 1980.

At the Old Bailey Richardson was in his element on the Bench as he had been at the Bar and many heavyweight criminal cases came his way. On the Bench, as in other aspects of his life, he always appeared unflappable. He served as Treasurer of the Middle Temple last year, a function whose duties can be a good deal more than honorary.

When he left the Old Bailey on Friday night he bade a genial goodbye to his staff and looked forward to seeing them in court on Monday.

His wife, Dr Eileen Richardson, whom he had married in 1956 and to whom he was utterly devoted, died from cancer last year. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.



JOHN VOLPE

John Volpe, former Governor of Massachusetts and Transportation Secretary in the Nixon Administration, died on November 11 aged 85. He was born on December 8, 1908.

BEGINNING his working life as a labourer, John Volpe went on to an impressive business career. With the help of a small loan and a \$300 insurance policy, he founded his own construction business during the Great Depression and turned it into a multi-million dollar enterprise.

In 1948, after returning from wartime naval service, Volpe became active in Massachusetts politics as a Republican. He became the state's Commissioner of Public Works in 1953 and in 1956 was made interim Federal Highway Commissioner.

Volpe's company had stopped accepting state contracts after he became active in politics, and it was this clean image that helped him to capture the Massachusetts governorship in 1960 at a time

when the Democratic incumbent was mired in a scandal over the state's road-building programme. However, with Democrats in control of every state office except his own, Volpe found it hard to get things done. He was defeated in the 1962 election, but re-elected two years later, and then served as Governor of Massachusetts until 1969 when he resigned to become Transportation Secretary under President Nixon.

With a lengthy "sick-out" declared by America's air traffic controllers in 1970, and a prolonged dock strike on the West Coast in the same year, Volpe's term in office was a turbulent one. He fought a long and ultimately losing battle to fund the supersonic transport programme, which would have provided competition to the Anglo-French Concorde. He also reorganised passenger rail service in the US under Amtrak, and increased federal safety regulation of the railways.

Volpe was Ambassador to Italy, 1973-77. He is survived by his wife Giovanna, a son and a daughter.

SIR NICHOLAS SPRECKLEY



Sir Nicholas Spreckley, KVO, CMG, High Commissioner to Malaysia, 1986-91, died from cancer on December 3 aged 59. He was born on December 6, 1934.

IN THE course of a long diplomatic career, Nicholas Spreckley made a quiet but solid contribution to the conduct of his country's interests abroad, particularly in the Far East and South-East Asia, serving as Head of Chancery in Tokyo and Ambassador to South Korea as well as High Commissioner to Malaysia.

John Nicholas Teague Spreckley was the son of Air Marshal Sir Herbert Spreckley, after Winchester and Magdalene College, Cambridge, he entered the Foreign Service in 1957.

He was sent at once to Tokyo. As a language student there he mastered Japanese and laid the foundations for an intimate knowledge of a country which was just beginning to impinge upon the informed Western consciousness

as a potential economic giant. After five years in Japan he served for a further four in the Foreign Office, before middle level postings to Dakar and Paris.

In 1975 Spreckley returned to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a few fraught months as head of the unit co-ordinating work on the referendum on continuing European Community membership. In the following year he was sent again to Tokyo, this time as Head of Chancery. To many of his friends, observing his understanding of a rapidly changing Japan, it seemed likely that Spreckley would in due course complete his hat-trick there, as Ambassador.

A sabbatical year at the Harvard Center for International Affairs broadened Spreckley's horizons further, and after it he put in four hard years as head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office department responsible for European Community issues. His reward was promotion at the age of 49, and appointment as Ambassador to South Korea.

By 1983, South Korea was following where Japan had led 20 years earlier, building a powerful modern economy on the basis of an old and complex oriental society. It was at the same time a country exposed to external pressures and domestic tensions. In September 1983 Soviet fighters shot down a South Korean airliner which had intruded into Soviet air space. The loss of life which resulted provoked enormous concern. At the same time difficulties between North and South Korea persisted. So did domestic unrest, particularly among the students.

All these things were far from Britain's primary concerns, but they threatened the stability of a country of growing significance and a potentially important market for British goods and for inward investment into Britain. Drawing on his knowledge acquired in neighbouring Japan, and on his own insight and capacity for hard work, Spreckley established a strong position in a complex country which was changing with bewildering rapidity.

If things had so turned out, he might have moved from Seoul to Tokyo but the ambassadorial appointment in Tokyo went to another. In 1986 Spreckley was appointed to succeed High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur. Like South Korea, Malaysia was fast transforming itself into a major Asian power. Unlike South Korea, it had strong complex historical and human connections with Britain, which was its fifth most important trading partner.

Spreckley stayed in Kuala Lumpur for five interesting and demanding years. The study of a society in such rapid transition provided the interest. So did the opportunities for British trade and investment; a contract for arms to meet Malaysia's growing defence needs, was to come back

in the guise of the Pergau dam affair to trouble Spreckley in his retirement. At the same time, much-belated post-colonial frictions, and in particular extreme sensitivity to any form of criticism of the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, imposed unusual demands on his diplomatic skills.

Nevertheless, Spreckley conducted a successful mission to a country of great and growing importance to Britain. Trade increased strongly following Dr Mahathir's "buy British last" campaign which ended in 1983. The High Commission moved into purpose-built accommodation out of the high-profile home presented to Britain at the time of independence. And in 1989 Spreckley's tour was marked by the Queen's visit to Malaysia at the time of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, on which occasion he was appointed KVO. When he retired in 1991 he and his wife left many friends in Malaysia.

In 1958 Nicholas Spreckley had married Margaret Stewart, the daughter of William Stewart, Professor of French at Bristol University and one of Britain's most outstanding French scholars. They met at Cambridge and had much in common: moral seriousness, an earnest interest in the public good, an unwavering commitment to the sheer hard work of overseas representation, and a love of books, pictures and the theatre. In retirement they established a happy home in Chiswick.

Nicholas Spreckley pursued a number of interests, most particularly the chairmanship of a promising small company exploring the use of recyclable materials in novel contexts. He kept up his interest in Korea in retirement and he was a most active member of the Anglo-Korean Society and the UK Korea Forum for the Future. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

**GIFTS**

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هكذا من الأدب



American journalists pride themselves on being crusaders — but they are in danger of becoming nothing more than snide gossips

## Whatever happened to Superman?

American journalists like to think of themselves as heroes, crusaders, like Superman, for "truth, justice and the American way". (Superman, remember, was reporter Clark Kent in his spare time.) The awful thought that they may not be — or worse, that they once were and may not be any more — is the subject of a revealing, hand-wringing article in the latest issue of *The New Yorker* magazine.

In it, Adam Gopnik weighs six books on the state of the American Fourth Estate and finds a terrible change from the past. There is, he says, a snide new aggressiveness, an indiscriminate eagerness to pry into private matters, regardless of the reputations destroyed. This cruel new breed of journalism has replaced the old, worldly analysis of events which were universally recognised as public.

So far, so familiar. Most newspapers in the West have been accused of going soft and downmarket in pursuit of circulation in their losing battle with

television. As I noted when in New York last month, the flabbiness of the news agenda is conspicuous on the front page of *The New York Times*. Mr Gopnik, too, takes one of his prime examples of pointless smugness from that pompous peak of the American press: its front-page story on President Clinton's visit to Oxford. Maureen Dowd, who as an "interpretive" writer is allowed licence never before accorded to *New York Times* reporters, describes the day as "a sentimental journey to the university where he didn't inhale, didn't get drafted, and didn't get a degree".

Mr Gopnik's description of the symptoms of the American press, however, is better than his diagnosis. What he sees happening is an exchange of access for aggression.

In the old days, he says, the press was on familiar terms with even the highest government officials. One consequence of this easy access was discretion. Political journalists did not mention either that Franklin Roosevelt needed help in getting on his trousers or that John Kennedy had trouble keeping his on. As a corollary, the press pundits were well-informed. Although urbane insiders such as Arthur Krock, James Reston and Walter Lippmann knew far more than they wrote, what they did write was of central importance in explaining the processes of democratic life.

In contrast, says Mr Gopnik, today's American journalists respond with a kind of free-floating belligerence to a denial of access. Their worst victim may be President Clinton, whose life and staff have been subjected to investiga-



BRENDA MADDOX

tion and inquisition of the kind that never troubled the wildest nightmares of the adulterous Roosevelt or Kennedy.

Seen from Britain, where journalists have never been lucky enough to cloak themselves as Superman, the Gopnik charges seem only half-true. In many ways, the American press seems only now to be joining the real world. At the same time, it still

seems justified in considering itself as a fourth branch of government because the First Amendment of the Constitution as good as tells it that it is.

Gopnik's accusation that its journalists "have no visible class allegiances or political allegiances" is merely a reflection of one of the striking differences between the American and British presses: the continuing pretence of American newspapers that they are impartial. With only one newspaper in many large cities, how are your advertisements going to draw all your readers to the same shopping malls unless you seem to appeal to the full range of them?

And why in the name of heaven are Presidents so much less accessible than they used to be? Because Kennedy did more than commit adultery. He got assassinated. And

the sound bites and spin doctors that, according to Gopnik, have made the press cynical and intrusive, sniffing for ways through the public-relations barrier, were not an invention of Nixon, who hated the East Coast liberal press.

They were the inevitable response to an audience that takes its news increasingly from television and keeps a jittery finger on the remote channel-changing button.

Two other very American phenomena have contributed to the death of the American reporter as hero: the rise of fundamentalist religion in what is known as Middle America, and the spread of structuralist literary theory in those universities from which the top-notch new journalists tend to emerge. The conservatives believe that sexual morality is a political issue: that, as Ross Perot

has said, "if a man's wife can't trust him, why should anybody else?"

At the same time, the new journalists — perhaps one should now call them "writers" — have been fed on narrative theory, which holds that the only way to interpret the chaos of events is to impose a story structure on them. Add these two developments together and what do you get? A kind of sex-slutting political reporting never dreamt of in the days of *The Front Page*. Sex is now political news which is indistinguishable from history and art.

As for Gopnik's most important charge — that American journalists have no conviction — it is a case of blaming the messenger. Americans have lost their old conviction. They have never been so unsure or so divided. But at least they have the First Amendment: an absolute protection against any law restricting the press. No moral relativism or circulation war can take that away from them.

### Alexandra Frean looks at a new TV documentary series that blows the lid off Tinseltown

If you thought some of the dizzy, glitzy, kitsch and idiotic characters in TV's highly controversial documentary series *Hollywood Women* were dreadful, wait till you see their children. *Hollywood Kids*, which begins on ITV next week, will be aiming to match the first series' average audiences of 10 million viewers and to stir up at least as much debate.

The huge ratings success enjoyed last autumn by *Hollywood Women*, a four-part collection of interviews with the film industry's troubled female elite and their hangers-on, together with the equally intense critical debate it sparked, meant that a sequel was inevitable.

David Green, executive producer of the series and a former British expatriate in Los Angeles, admits that Hollywood is an easy target and one guaranteed, initially at least, to attract viewers. However, given the huge influence of the American film and television industry on our lives, he believes that surprisingly few programme-makers have given the subject the treatment it deserves.

"I did not set out to rubbish Hollywood, but my observation was that everything on television about Hollywood was a puff piece for films and books. I wanted to show it warts and all," he says.

The new series depicts Hollywood as the undisputed capital of the dysfunctional family. Each of the one-hour episodes covers a self-contained theme — children of the rich and famous, child stars, anti-social behaviour and self-destruction. Taken together, the four parts mark a steady descent into hell.

Episode one opens with Frank Zappa's smiling and relaxed children, Moon Unit (an actress), Ahmet (a musician) and Dweezil (who was named after his mother's little toe) discussing light-heartedly what a handicap it is to have been given such dumb names. By the closing episodes, the debate has moved on to murder and mayhem, looking at Lyle and Erik Menendez, the brothers who killed their millionaire parents, and the drug-induced death of the actor River Phoenix.

As the father of three children, aged five, eight and 11, Green feels that the lack of parental care and responsibility in Hollywood is at the root of many of its problems. He brought his family back to Britain last year so that his children (who feature in the opening titles) would not have to grow up there.

Like *Hollywood Women*, the new series has no narrator. Instead, scores of very short clips of interviews — lasting from five to 30 seconds — are pieced together to form a succession of mini-climaxes. The author Jackie Collins provides the glue that holds it all together, with a series of surprisingly interesting insights.

The key is the juxtaposition of the opposites and heavy dollops of irony. The comic is cut with the tragic, the downright stupid with the wise. The mood of the programme can be summed up by an interview with Meshulam Riklis, a multimillionaire entrepreneur. "I spend a lot of time with my children..." he begins. "No



From Hollywood gloss to hell: the stereotype film star brat and, right, "Diane", who once had the not-so-glamorous job of a child prostitute



## Hollywood's kids of fame and misfortune

he doesn't," interrupts the little voice from the bottom of the screen. It comes from his seven-year-old son, Kristofer.

This pacey jump-editing technique may have appealed to viewers of *Hollywood Women*, but it produced mixed reviews from critics. It clearly did not appeal to the Independent Television Commission, the ITV regulator, which was highly critical of *Hollywood Women* in its last annual report, describing it as "glub and superficial". The ITC, he says, "are dinosaurs intent on protecting the status quo. They have got too used to documentary makers in this country making programmes for their friends and not for the audience."

In the United States I was fascinated by the fact that programmes such as *20/20* and *60 Minutes* were able to run in prime time with mass audiences. They do this because they manage to engage viewers. I wanted to achieve the same kind of results here," he says.

To Green, who made a string of documentaries and dramas for the BBC and ITV and a number of British feature films, including *Buster*, before his stint making movies in Los Angeles, the idea that all documentaries have to conform to some kind of ITC-approved *Panorama* or *World in Action* style format, or that

they have to be investigative is preposterous.

He believes factual programmes such as his, which carry no commentary and allow their subjects to talk for themselves, attract more viewers because they allow audiences to participate more actively by interpreting what they see. *Hollywood Women*, for example, was watched by six million more viewers per episode than *Panorama*.



Rich and famous: Courtney and Kate with their father Robert Wagner

The fast-cutting technique used in the programmes owes much to the development of computerised editing. For *Hollywood Kids*, around 180 hours of filmed interviews were fed into a computer to make the four one-hour programmes. In the editing, individual images and clips could be summoned up on screen at the press of a button.

The test now for this technique will be in applying it to British subject

matter, Green says. He will get his chance next year with *The Eternal Triangle*, a three-part documentary series, commissioned by BBC1, about romantic relationships. Green's company, September Films, is also developing a series for ITV on Britain in the 1990s, although it has not yet won a commission.

Also in the pipeline for ITV is *Hollywood Men* and a more light-hearted series of half-hour programmes called *Hollywood Pets*. Pre-production is about to begin on a follow-up series to *Hollywood Women* and *Hollywood Kids* for transmission on ITV in late 1995. Green is currently filming *Hollywood Vice*, a one-off special for ITV.

His next goal is to tell Hollywood to the Americans. For this, Green is repackaging his *Hollywood Women*, *Kids* and *Vice* series into 22 half-hour programmes. He is already in negotiations with distributors and hopes his all-British series will become the first to be syndicated throughout the States since the Benny Hill and Russ Abbot shows.

"Of course the Hollywood franchise won't last forever — only as long as the audience wants it," he says. "After that we'll move on to something else."

● Growing up in the movies — Magazine, Saturday

## Fighting for the real thing

Coca-Cola takes the battle to what it calls 'parasites', the own-label rivals

There is one brand you simply won't be able to get away from in the run-up to Christmas. A few weeks ago, Coca-Cola began a new ad campaign to ram home how boring life would be if own-label suppliers squeezed Coke off the shelves.

Last weekend, new ads appeared for Diet Coke as part of a drive to lift the brand out of a slimming ghetto by associating it with looking good and being sexy. Soon, more pre-Christmas Coke advertising will hit our TV screens. According to George Bratt, Coke GB's new marketing director, in two months the company will spend £4 million on advertising, more than many leading brands spend in a year.

Never before has Coke had to advertise to keep own-label products at bay. And never before has it used British agencies to produce ads specifically for the UK market. Behind it lies a recognition

that Coke's global "I'd like to teach the world to sing" razz-matazz is losing its fizz. The marketing revolution at Coca-Cola began four years ago when a special think tank (including the management expert Peter Drucker and the marketing guru Ted Levitt) warned Coke

that a brand advertised in a normal way, with normal media, is likely to develop a normal rather than a special image. In the past few years, Coca-Cola has stunned the advertising world by abandoning its revered "one-sight, one-sound, one-sell" image creation strategy for a single US agency, instead passing advertising to local advisers. It has poured vast sums of money into "presence marketing", such as sponsorships of the World Cup and the UK's Coca-Cola Cup, and reintroduced its famous contoured bottle. It has also introduced new brands, including the PowerAde sports drink, Nestlé fruit tea and "new-age" drinks such as Aquarius and Fruitiopia.

The weirdest of Coca-Cola's new drinks is OK Soda. Its packaging comes with what looks like a cartoon wino sitting on a bench in front of a derelict factory. A free-phone hotline in the US encourages

teenage consumers to pass messages to each other about feeling, or not feeling, OK. Cheekily, the company has also surreptitiously started a chain letter ridiculing the claims that marketers make about their brands. The letters end with the message, "Whatever your problem, please remember things are going to be OK". But are they?

For Coca-Cola globally, there is little doubt that they will. Coke is pouring into new markets in India, China, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, some of which are producing annual sales growth rates as high as 60 per cent. Robert Goizuela, the chairman, says: "Our global system is operating at a new level of momentum and performance, driven by our ongoing marketing investments."

Back in the UK, Coca-Cola could be facing a strong threat as the Cott Corporation and

its retailer allies start to offer cola drinks that taste as good as Coke but cost less. Cotti, instead of trying to out-Coke Coke as Pepsi attempted, has called Coca-Cola's bluff.

According to the market researchers Nielsen, own-labels accounted for 62 per cent of the total volume growth in UK cola sales up to November. But Coke says that it has still managed an 8 per cent volume growth during the same period.

But recently the Cott chairman, George Pencer, attacked Coke's hugely expensive image marketing as just a brand tax on consumers. What was just another brand war is becoming an ideological battle about postwar consumerism and the role of marketing within it.

The response from Doug Ivester, Coca-Cola's president and chief operating officer, was ferocious. Own-label suppliers such as Cotti, he told a US industry conference, are mere parasites, and the branded competitors sheep. He likened Coca-Cola to a wolf, ready to crush the bugs and eat the sheep. He ended his speech with wolf howls.

Compared with the fireworks that Coke is planning, the ad blitz this Christmas looks mild indeed.

ALAN MITCHELL



Clip from a Coke advert

## Baywatch flounders on the beach

DRAMA FOR THE UK vs NON-UK

November 14 to 20, 1994

| UK Originated | Programme         | Date | Time  | Channel | Producer             | Genre  | Audience (millions) |
|---------------|-------------------|------|-------|---------|----------------------|--------|---------------------|
| 1             | Heartbeat         | Sun  | 19.25 | ITV     | Yorkshire Television | Soap   | 17.8                |
| 2             | Coronation Street | Sat  | 19.31 | ITV     | Granada Television   | Soap   | 17.8                |
| 3             | Casualty          | Sat  | 20.07 | BBC1    | BBC                  | Soap   | 17.2                |
| 4             | Eastenders        | Thu  | 19.31 | BBC1    | BBC                  | Soap   | 17.1                |
| 5             | London's Burning  | Sun  | 21.01 | ITV     | LWT                  | Series | 15.9                |
| 6             | Soldier Soldier   | Tue  | 21.01 | ITV     | Granada Television   | Series | 13.6                |
| 7             | Copcat            | Mon  | 21.00 | ITV     | Thames Television    | Series | 13.2                |
| 8             | The Bill          | Fri  | 20.01 | ITV     | Yorkshire Television | Series | 11.5                |
| 9             | Emmerdale         | Tue  | 19.00 | ITV     | Central Television   | Series | 8.0                 |
| 10            | Peak Practice     | Fri  | 21.02 | ITV     |                      |        |                     |

| Non-UK Originated | Programme                       | Date | Time  | Channel | Producer                | Genre  | Audience (millions) |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|------|-------|---------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| 1                 | Neighbours                      | Tue  | 17.37 | BBC1    | Grundy International    | Soap   | 11.1                |
| 2                 | Home and Away                   | Wed  | 18.01 | ITV     | Seven Network Australia | Soap   | 8.8                 |
| 3                 | Baywatch                        | Sat  | 21.02 | ITV     | Tower 12 Productions    | Series | 7.8                 |
| 4                 | The X-Files                     | Thu  | 18.07 | BBC2    | 20th Century Fox        | Series | 4.9                 |
| 5                 | Star Trek: The Next Generation  | Mon  | 18.07 | BBC2    | Paramount               | Series | 3.6                 |
| 6                 | Star Trek: Voyager              | Sun  | 13.36 | BBC1    | Lucasfilm               | Series | 3.3                 |
| 7                 | Young Indiana Jones Chronicles  | Sun  | 18.02 | BBC2    | Universal               | Series | 3.0                 |
| 8                 | Buck Rogers in the 25th Century | Mon  | 15.49 | ITV     | NBC Productions         | Series | 2.9                 |
| 9                 | Knight Rider                    | Tue  | 13.58 | ITV     | JMP Productions         | Soap   | 2.8                 |
| 10                | A Country Practice              | Sun  | 11.45 | CH44    | NBC Productions         | Series | 2.5                 |

OF THE £228 million that British broadcasters spent importing overseas programmes last year, £179 million — 79 per cent — went to North America, *Alexandra Frean* writes. Yet audiences in Britain clearly prefer home-produced material, at least when it comes to drama programmes.

This is borne out by our ratings chart, which compares viewing figures for dramas and films produced in the UK with non-UK originated material.

Once you strip out the soap operas, even *Peak Practice*, the poorest-performing British drama (9 million viewers), attracted more viewers than *Baywatch*, the most popular import (7.8 million).

Current affairs magazines make the news more relevant to everyday life

Few phrases slice through the heart and soul of serious broadcasters with quite the surgical precision of "tabloid television".

It has come to represent everything that was bad on television, made worse programmes done on the cheap, with any cracks in the skimpy content glossed over by flashy techno-tricks, and transmitted as quickly and loudly as possible in the hope that they would be quickly forgotten.

Paul Woolwich, former editor of such broadsheet TV journalism as *This Week* and *Hard News*, might once have shared that suspicion, but he is now proving that it isn't necessarily so. As editor of BBC1's populist news magazine *Here and Now*, which runs on BBC1 for three more programmes, Woolwich's task has been to demonstrate that

## Tabloid TV gets a touch of class

the older values of tabloid journalism — translating important stories to ordinary people in a clear and accessible manner — still hold good.

Despite the fact that it is scheduled against the all-conquering *Coronation Street*, the Wednesday night series has regularly attracted audiences of more than five million.

"The BBC realises that most of the news and current affairs it puts out is issue-led and deeply reflective," he says. "It deals with captains of industry and the inner workings of political life, and it is vital to

carry on doing that. But there's also a need to give ordinary viewers a choice — to popularise news in such a way that its relevance to everyday life is more obvious."

Here and Now is not alone in the fight. ITV's *The Big Story* on Thursdays was devised to achieve much the same ambitions for much the same sector of the audience.

In some respects, both shows use the same tactics to combat the crowd-pullers on the respective rival channels. Both, for instance, rely on what the trade calls "featured reporters" — friendly faces to

filter the information on its way to the screen.

"It's very important, in this kind of programme, for viewers to identify with the people who are telling them what's going on," Woolwich says. "If they care, we care, and that's half the battle."

The *Big Story's* boast is to begin from a standing start every Monday morning and produce the background to the week's major issue by Thursday night. *Here and Now*, in contrast, invests weeks of research into some stories, and presents three in every half-hour programme, ranging from the serious to the silly.

Woolwich adds: "After all, the best television is about drama, conflict, tension and interesting characters, and current affairs is no different."

JAMES POWER









ARTS 37-39

Nigel Hawthorne makes his debut as a director



HOMES 41

Is the Budget bad news on the housing front?



SPORT 42-48

Pick your winning rugby team in the First XV Game

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
Pages 46, 47

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7 1994

Writ issued over arms dealer's outstanding debts of \$8 million

## Lonrho seizes Khashoggi jet



Bock: new-found focus

BY MELVYN MARCUS  
CITY EDITOR

A PRIVATE jet used by Adnan Khashoggi has been seized by parties acting for Lonrho, the international trading conglomerate, which is suing a company connected with the controversial arms dealer to recover loans worth some \$8 million.

Inquiries by *The Times* revealed that Mr Khashoggi's plane, a McDonnell Douglas DC9 — serial number 47151, registration mark VR-CKO — has been impounded at London's Heathrow airport since Saturday. Lonrho's decision to take possession of the 120-seat twin jet coincides with the issue of a writ claiming an outstanding sum of more than \$8 million from Handlingair Macdac Ltd, a company associated with Mr Khashoggi which is registered in the Cayman Islands. Mr Khashoggi's jet was pledged as security against loans advanced by Lonrho during the mid-Eighties.

It would appear that Lonrho advanced a \$2 million loan to Handling-

air Macdac on December 30, 1985. A further loan of \$2 million was made available in February 1986. Interest was payable on the outstanding sums at 2 per cent above the "prime rate" — defined in the arrangement as Citibank of New York's base rate — accruing from day to day. Default, on either principal or interest, incurred a doubling of the premium to 4 per cent.

It is understood that Mr Khashoggi, via Handlingair, agreed to reimburse Lonrho, on a full indemnity basis, all expenses incurred in enforcement of the loan facility agreements. The jet represented a continuing security.

In May 1987, Handlingair Macdac is alleged to have acknowledged that a sum of \$3,682,585 was due and payable to Lonrho. In the event, Lonrho advanced a further \$400,000 to the company. By May 1991, Handlingair Macdac's indebtedness had escalated to £5,524,516. Subsequent agreements in the summer of 1991 saw further sums amounting to \$425,000 advanced to Handlingair. By October 1993, Handlingair's total indebtedness to Lonrho

had risen to \$7,262,852. Lonrho's writ alleges that last January the company demanded repayment of the loans which, together with interest, amounted to \$7,347,569. According to the writ, issued by Lonrho's lawyers Cameron Markby Hewitt, Handlingair Macdac has failed to pay any part of this sum to Lonrho. The company is now claiming full repayment plus costs and expenses amounting to some \$8,127,866 with interest still taxi metering away in respect of close on \$8 million of this sum.

Tiny Rowland, the driving force behind Lonrho for more than 30 years, is a long-standing associate of Mr Khashoggi, and, historically, has snapped up several of the Saudi Arabian businessman's former assets, including the Kenya Safari Club.

Last month Mr Rowland let it be known that he will bow out as joint chief executive of Lonrho at the end of the year and will retire at next March's AGM when he is expected to become President. Mr Rowland's decision to quit came in the wake of a long-

running power play between himself and Dieter Bock, Lonrho's joint chief executive. Mr Bock has made no secret of focusing his energies on Lonrho, witness the recent sale of a 50 per cent stake in the luxury Kempinski Hotels chain via Advanta, his private enterprise.

In 1990, Mr Khashoggi, dubbed "Mr Fixit", was cleared by a New York jury of conspiring with Imelda Marcos to purchase Manhattan real estate with funds of \$360 million allegedly stolen from the Philippines. In recent years, Mr Khashoggi, once perceived as one of the world's richest men, has parted company with many of the trinkets which featured in his glitterati life style. Gone is the 86-metre yacht *Nabila* and, courtesy of Lonrho, "Mr Fixit" has now been deprived of his private jet.

Precisely what use Mr Khashoggi put Lonrho's loans to during the Eighties is unclear. A spokesman for Lonrho refused to comment on the litigation. Mr Khashoggi could not be contacted.



Khashoggi: jet impounded

## Freeman to call for more European defence deals

By ROSS TYEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government will today call on Britain's defence contractors to seek merger partners or acquisitions throughout Europe. In a bid to achieve better value for the taxpayer.

Unveiling a strategic shift in policy, Roger Freeman, the defence procurement minister, will tell leaders of Britain's biggest industry that the country can no longer afford to maintain a leading role in every technology.

His remarks will send shock waves through the headquarters of the General Electric Company. Later today, the Office of Fair Trading is expected to clear competing bids for VSEL, the nuclear submarine builder, from both GEC and British Aerospace.

But instead of signalling the Government's willingness to see consolidation in the United Kingdom defence industry, ministers appear to have concluded that further concentration within Britain's defence industry is an inadequate response to future needs.

GEC has been stalking Bae for years in the hope of mounting a takeover to create a dominant British prime contractor. But today's shift in policy will clearly favour Bae's strategy of European collaboration.

In an interview with *The Times* on the eve of his speech to the Defence Manufacturers' Association, Mr Freeman said ministers have already started lobbying EU governments in favour of pan-European defence industry mergers.

"I think we should not look too narrowly," he said. "British defence companies which fail to seek horizontal mergers in Europe rather than vertical mergers within the UK are going to be cut or closed. British firms at the leading edge of technology should be

seeking to develop on a European scale, rather than a British base."

And he said mere joint ventures were not enough. Companies should take equity stakes to give collaboration a sound backing. And both companies and countries should be prepared to specialise to reap economies of scale.

Mr Freeman said that in future, European governments were likely to co-ordinate their procurement programmes enabling development of a single ship, tank or aircraft to meet an agreed need. He criticised past projects, such as the Tornado fighter, as excessively costly because identical production lines were set up in each partner country. In future, he said, programmes should draw sub-assemblies from each country, enabling specialisation, economies of scale and use of the best available technology.

The first project to be developed under the new strategy was likely to be the "common new generation frigate", he said. The new warship, being developed jointly by Britain, France and Italy, will probably have a common radar and weapons systems, no matter where the hull is built.

Mr Freeman said Britain should retain a national capability only in selected areas, such as nuclear submarines. That will reinforce the battle for Barrow. He confirmed Defence Ministry hopes that the Government will buy Hercules C130J planes to replace part of the RAF's transport fleet, but said the rival European Future Large Aircraft, backed by Bae, might meet subsequent needs.

Call to arms, page 29



Jeremy Marshall, left, chief executive of De La Rue, and Leslie Cullen, finance director, would like to bank with Portals

## Portals in talks with De La Rue

By GEORGE SIVELL  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

PORTALS, the security paper manufacturer, was forced by a runaway share price rise to reveal yesterday that De La Rue, which prints banknotes on Portals paper, was again in bid talks with the company.

In May, both companies were involved in bid talks, but said they had been unable to reach agreement on an offer and that talks had been terminated. Yesterday, De La Rue said it would not make a hostile bid that lacked the agreement from Portals directors and emphasised the exceptionally close commercial relationship between the two companies.

Yesterday's announcement followed a surge in Portals shares. They closed at 77p, up 66p, valuing the group at £499 million.

One analyst said: "The market is still looking for an agreed deal. Inherent logic still applies. De La Rue wants control of the manufacturing process at all stages."

Pennington, page 27

## VAT vote hits share index

SHARES in London took another tumble yesterday as dealers were unnerved by political uncertainty before last night's House of Commons vote on VAT on domestic fuel bills and concern about a possible increase in UK interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares crashed through the 3,000 support level during the morning as a one-time 41.1-point deficit saw it hit a low of 2,992.4, before ending the day 17.4 points lower at 3,015.1.

There was also uncertainty before today's monthly monetary policy meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

Stock market, page 28

## Nadir fights back as ally is lost

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN NICOSIA

ASIL Nadir, the fugitive former head of Polly Peck International, has gone on the offensive in northern Cyprus. As administrators of the collapsed trading group moved to secure the hotel business he maintained on the island, he incited demonstrations against the government by staff from the hotels.

However, Mr Nadir's actions came as the president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic in northern Cyprus called yesterday for his arrest. Rauf Denktaş, a former friend of Mr Nadir who originally welcomed him to northern Cyprus when he jumped bail in Britain last year, criticized the government for failing to arrest Mr Nadir, a Turkish Cypriot, on tax evasion charges.

Two representatives of the

administrators of Polly Peck opened talks yesterday with government officials, bankers and lawyers in Nicosia aimed at an early agreement to allow the administrators to gain control of two luxury hotels in northern Cyprus.

However, as the representatives flew in on Monday, staff of the Nadir hotels demonstrated in the streets against the government sequestration of the properties two weeks ago. Publicly encouraged by Mr Nadir, the staff called on Hakkı Atun, the Prime Minister, to reverse the sequestration order.

Despite the public show of support for Mr Nadir, who jumped bail of £3.5 million in May last year, the administrators are confident that Mr Nadir is losing important backing on the island as his

sources of finance are shut off. A senior partner of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm acting as administrators, said that Mr Nadir was "on the brink of being shoved off his perch".

The deal that the administrators seek would involve the northern Cyprus authorities handing control of the hotels to the lawful owner, Voyager Kibris, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Voyager Mediterranean, an Isle of Man-registered company that forms part of the Polly Peck empire.

In return, the administrators will raise local finance to pay the \$1.5 million that the hotels owe the northern Cyprus authorities in unpaid taxes, \$100,000 in unpaid ground rent and a further \$100,000 in unpaid wages for

staff. Cash flow from the hotels, whose estimated asset value has been put as high as \$15 million, is likely to be used to repay local borrowing, but the administrators' ultimate aim is to sell the hotels as part of their four-year quest to recover as much as possible from the ruins of Polly Peck.

Mr Nadir, who faces charges in Britain of theft and false accounting involving £35 million, has taken legal action in northern Cyprus to prevent his assets falling into the hands of the administrators.

A report to creditors of Polly Peck being sent out by Coopers & Lybrand this week discloses that the administration has so far raised \$680 million towards debts of more than \$4.3 billion.

Pennington, page 27

## BUSINESS TODAY

| STOCK MARKET INDICES           |          |            |  |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|--|
| FT-SE 100                      | 3016.1   | (-17.4)    |  |
| Yield                          | 4.27%    |            |  |
| FT-SE All share                | 1497.72  | (-9.23)    |  |
| Nikkei                         | 19346.47 | (-34.81)   |  |
| New York                       | 3748.21  | (+8.29)*   |  |
| Dow Jones                      | 453.85   | (+0.53)*   |  |
| S&P Composite                  |          |            |  |
| US RATE                        |          |            |  |
| Federal Funds                  | 5.4%     | (5.4%)     |  |
| Long Bond                      | 9.7%     | (9.7%)     |  |
| Yield                          | 7.85%    | (7.92%)    |  |
| LONDON MONEY                   |          |            |  |
| 3-mth interbank                | 6.4%     | (6.4%)     |  |
| Life long gilt                 | 10.2%    | (10.2%)    |  |
| STERLING                       |          |            |  |
| New York                       | 1.5605*  | (1.5570)   |  |
| London                         | 1.5608   | (1.5597)   |  |
| DM                             | 2.4667   | (2.4579)   |  |
| FF                             | 8.4390   | (8.4400)   |  |
| SFR                            | 2.0767   | (2.0748)   |  |
| Yen                            | 156.47   | (156.68)   |  |
| £ Index                        | 80.3     | (80.1)     |  |
| DOLLAR                         |          |            |  |
| London                         | 1.5743*  | (1.5716)   |  |
| FF                             | 5.4065*  | (5.3850)   |  |
| SFR                            | 1.3985*  | (1.3958)   |  |
| Yen                            | 100.28*  | (100.35)   |  |
| £ Index                        | 83.2     | (83.3)     |  |
| Tokyo close Yen 100.42         |          |            |  |
| NORTH SEA OIL                  |          |            |  |
| Brent 15-day (Feb)             | \$16.10  | (\$16.05)  |  |
| GOLD                           |          |            |  |
| London close                   | \$378.45 | (\$376.35) |  |
| * denotes midday trading price |          |            |  |

## NFC scraps employee profit share

By CARL MORTISHED

NFC, the transport and logistics group, will not pay a profit share to its employees this year because of poor trading and competitive pressures.

It is the first time the £1 billion company, which was sold by the Government to employees in 1982, has failed to allocate a portion of the earnings to its staff.

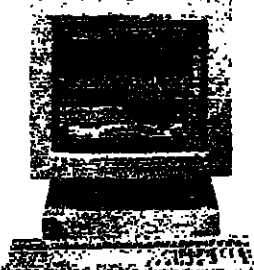
The company, which lost its chief executive in a management coup last August, suffered a 4.5 per cent slump in underlying operating profits in the year to October 1, but investors will still receive a rise in dividend, up 5.7 per cent to 7.1p per share.

Shares dropped from 162p to 146p as the company reported flatish pre-tax profits of £105 million and a £5 million top-up to last year's £45 million reorganisation charge.

James Watson, the chairman, who is handing over the reins to Sir Christopher Bland, the former LWT chief, said that he anticipated continued pressure on margins in the future, but the company would respond with a review of costs. "The cost savings will be considerable," he said.

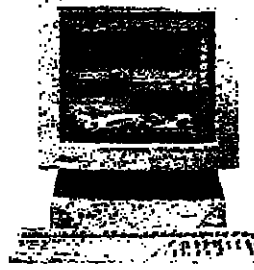
He added that there would be some redundancies, but he declined to disclose how many. The head office in London has seen its headcount cut from 50 to 15. The company's intention is to reduce the number of backroom and administrative staff.

At the time of the buyout, NFC was hailed as a triumph of employee capitalism. At present, 25,000 of the 35,000 employees own almost 11 per cent of the company.



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## Taunton hit by price pressures

By MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TAUNTON Cider, which controls about a third of the British cider market, has targeted Australia for its second big move abroad, and is in talks with possible partners to distribute its products there.

The move comes after the signing of a distribution agreement in America with Molson-Brewing, which has seen brands such as Red Rock, Brody's and Fire on prominent display in the bars of Washington DC and Boston.

Taunton managed to raise sales volumes by 9 per cent in the half-year to October 29, just ahead of a market that grew by 8 per cent. But margin pressure left turnover almost static at £65.2 million.

In spite of cost-cutting and heavy capital spending, pre-tax profits fell from £11 million to £10.4 million. But to reflect confidence in future prospects, the interim dividend is raised from 2.65p to 2.8p. Earnings per share fell from 6.9p to 6.7p.

Nick Pearce, the finance director, said the figures were "very satisfactory" given the prevailing market. "There's not a lot you can do about market-place pricing. We can at least gain market share, which is what we are doing."

Prices of Taunton's premium brands, along with the other big names in the cider industry, have been forced lower by cheap competition on supermarket shelves.

### TOURIST-RATES

|                 | Bank    | Bank    |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
|                 | Buys    | Sells   |
| Australia \$    | 2.13    | 1.98    |
| Austria Sch     | 18.20   | 18.70   |
| Belgium Fr      | 35.37   | 40.07   |
| Canada C\$      | 2.245   | 2.085   |
| Cyprus Cyp£     | 0.780   | 0.730   |
| Denmark Kr      | 10.18   | 9.38    |
| Finland Mk      | 8.10    | 7.49    |
| France Fr       | 6.89    | 6.29    |
| Germany DM      | 2.00    | 1.90    |
| Greece Dr       | 308.00  | 373.00  |
| Hong Kong \$    | 12.98   | 11.88   |
| Ireland P       | 1.07    | 0.99    |
| Italy Lit       | 2025.00 | 2470.00 |
| Japan Yen       | 170.50  | 154.50  |
| Malta           | 0.016   | 0.015   |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.089   | 2.059   |
| Norway Kr       | 11.25   | 10.45   |
| Portugal Esc    | 201.00  | 242.50  |
| S Africa Rd     | ref.    | 5.28    |
| Spain Ptas      | 212.50  | 198.50  |
| Sweden Kr       | 12.28   | 11.48   |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.19    | 2.01    |
| Turkey Lira     | ref.    | 5899.0  |
| USA \$          | 1.654   | 1.524   |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Nick Pearce, left, and Peter Adams, chief executive, are hoping to persuade Australians to drink more cider

## MPs allege 'political fix' on gas competition

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPETITION in the gas industry will fail to deliver substantial price decreases, MPs said yesterday as they accused the Government and the gas industry regulator of a "political fix" over gas prices.

The Government and the Office of Gas Supply both denied the accusation by the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, whose report on the domestic gas market struck a sceptical tone about the value of competition.

The Government will, early next year, introduce a short, technical Bill to open the gas industry to competition, with a pilot project to test the move beginning in April, probably in south-west England.

The committee said that the Government's original "rather theoretical" proposals had been "vastly changed and reworked", with ministers

moving to a more pragmatic approach. Even so, Labour is likely to have the Government over gas prices when the Bill is brought forward.

The MPs' unanimously agreed report says that "no convincing evidence was provided to us that the introduction of competition in the domestic gas market would bring about substantial reductions in gas purchase prices". Only about a quarter of total costs would be subject to competitive pressures.

The committee accepts that there will be some "modest" reductions in average prices to consumers, but rejects the claims by some potential independent gas suppliers of price cuts of 10 per cent or more. However, leading independents last night insisted that such reductions are possible.

MPs also warned against

cherry-picking of profitable customers and discrimination against low-volume users after the transitional period to full competition ends in 1998.

Richard Caborn, the committee chairman, said: "The Government and Ofgas have been forced to redraft the original proposals for deregulation of the domestic gas market because of the public's concern over VAT and sharp price rises for less profitable customers."

The inquiry has exposed the political fix by the Government and Ofgas to allow for a cross-subsidy in the transportation part of the standing charge from large to small users.

If the subsidy were removed after the pilot, he said, "there is a real risk that competition will result in unexpected price shocks for smaller customers". The committee's accusation of a political fix, centring on a

level of £15 set by Clare Sportswode, the director-general of gas supply, for the transportation part of the standing charge element of gas bills, was strongly denied.

Tim Eggar, Industry Minister, said: "There has been no political fix. This is the responsibility of Ofgas, and I have never applied pressure on Ofgas on this issue." He broadly welcomed the committee's report, denying that it was sceptical about the Government's competition plans, and forecast that competition would lead to price cuts.

Ofgas said: "There has not been a political fix." The £15 was "completely legitimate", from a "wide range" of figures that could have been selected. The MPs called for set service standards and for elderly and disabled customers not to be disadvantaged by competition.

## Changes at Sturge to protect new assets

By SARAH BAGNALL  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE exposure to legal action from Lloyd's names has prompted Sturge Holdings, the quoted insurance group, to set up a new holding company to stop litigants accessing any assets acquired in the future.

The move is one of the first signs of the arrival of Lord Poole as chief executive in September. Under the restructuring, Sturge is changing its name to Ockham Holdings.

Lord Poole said: "In common with most other agency groups operating in the Lloyd's market, the group is exposed to significant litigation. While the claims are being strongly resisted, the outcome of the litigation and the financial impact it will have on the group remain fundamentally uncertain."

Sturge said the restructuring was necessary because Lord Poole wanted to diversify the group, which currently comprises a Lloyd's underwriting agency and Wise Speke, a private-client broker.

Sturge shareholders are being offered one new share in Ockham for every Sturge share held. The restructuring requires the sanction of the High Court and the approval of at least 75 per cent of shareholders, who are due to vote at an egm on January 17.

As a result of the planned restructuring, David Colebridge, a former Lloyd's chairman, has postponed his plans to retire as Sturge chairman in January. John Kew, chairman of the Sturge Names Action Group, said: "Providing this is purely a new holding company and not a move to shift assets one way and liabilities the other then it is all right."

The new move as Sturge revealed a pre-tax loss of £15.6 million for the year to September 30, (£1.2 million profit). The loss was made on turnover of £26.9 million, down from £33.4 million last time.

The losses emanated from discontinued businesses while those continuing made a £3.1 million profit (£4.4 million) on turnover of £21.6 million. The board held the interim dividend at 2p, making an unchanged 3p for the year. EPS were 3.9p (7p).

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Names to negotiate, page 31

## Esab contribution fails to lift Charter

CHARTER, the industrial group, saw interim profits fall 2 per cent, in spite of a first-time contribution from Sweden's Esab, the world's biggest welding equipment maker, bought for £286 million in August. In the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits fell to £30.8 million from £31.3 million, reflecting a £7 million fall in interest income after the reduction in its capital base in September 1993, when Minorco ceased to be a shareholder. Net interest fell from £9.2 million to £2.6 million. Operating profits were up 45 per cent to £28.2 million.

Esab contributed £8.4 million to operating profits. Other businesses contributed £19.8 million, compared with £19.5 million. The dividend has been increased by 0.5p to 7.5p a share, to be paid on January 23. Earnings per share rose from 18.8p to 23.7p, a 26 per cent rise as a result of the capital reduction. Charter assumed Esab debt of £142 million, taking its net debt was £188 million at the end of September, representing gearing of 68 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

## Business failures rise

BUSINESS failures rose in November for the second month running, figures from Touche Ross, the accountancy practice, showed yesterday. Professional administrators were appointed at 185 troubled UK businesses last month, against 169 in October and 132 in September. Ralph Preece, a Touche Ross partner, said, however, that it was too early to say whether recent setbacks marked a reversal of the trend towards fewer company failures. Inclusion of a number of groups of companies in November's figures, each of which was counted separately, had boosted the overall tally, Mr Preece said.

## Aero Hamble departure

BRIAN Barr, a director of Aerostructures Hamble, has resigned with immediate effect. He is the son of Andy Barr, the chief executive who took early retirement in October because of ill-health. Mr Barr senior led a management buyout of the aircraft components company in 1992 and steered it to flotation last June at 120p a share. But the shares slumped to a fifth of that at one stage. The former chief executive sold £1.74 million of shares at the time of the flotation and his son made £600,000. Hugh Curran, 41, is appointed director in charge of manufacturing from January.

## US managers confident

AMERICAN manufacturing will continue to grow in 1995, but not as strongly as it did this year, indicating a slowing of the overall economy, the National Association of Purchasing Management said in its semi-annual economic survey yesterday. The survey of purchasing managers at 300 companies showed that 81 per cent expect revenues to increase in 1995, the largest percentage to forecast revenue growth since 1983. Nearly a quarter listed inflation as their greatest concern, up from 15 per cent in May, while 13.4 per cent (12 per cent) mentioned higher interest rates.

## Yorkshire compensation

YORKSHIRE Electricity is to receive compensation of SKr200 million (£17 million) after the collapse of its planned acquisition of a 17.3 per cent holding in Sweden's Stockholm Energi. The company called off the deal on November 1, after discussions with the new coalition parties — the Social Democrat Party, Environmentalists and Left Party — which were elected to rule the capital city on September 18. Stockholm City Council voted yesterday in favour of termination of the agreement. Yorkshire shares fell 13p to 715p.

## Colloids shares drop

SHARES in Allied Colloids fell 13p to 117p after the chemicals company said that increases in raw material costs were beginning to emerge internationally. The shares were marked lower even though the company said it was confident of the outcome in the financial year and that profits growth was likely to be better than in the previous year. In the six months to October 1, pre-tax profits rose to £24.15 million (£19.1 million) on turnover of £170.23 million (£159.34 million). Earnings were 3.35p a share (2.5p), and the interim dividend is 0.55p (0.5p), to be paid on February 17.

## Heinz's earnings slide

HEINZ, the American food company, saw net earnings slide to £139.6 million, or 56 cents a share, in the second quarter, from last year's £193.1 million, or 75 cents. Comparable figures for 1993 included a one-off gain of \$127 million from disposal of the confectionery and specialty rice businesses. Without this gain, operating income rose by 23 per cent. Second-quarter revenues grew to \$1.975 billion, from \$1.81 billion, taking first-half revenues to \$3.7 billion, from \$3.4 billion. The interim dividend was set at 36 cents (33 cents). Heinz described the results as "an excellent performance".

## Shell's Albanian deal

ROYAL Dutch/Shell is to open a local office in Tirana, the capital of Albania, early next year, subject to approval by the Albanian Council of Ministers of a deal announced yesterday. Shell has signed an exploration and production sharing agreement with Albania covering two onshore blocks of 800 and 760 square kilometres near existing fields. The current fields are estimated to produce about 10,000 barrels of oil a day and a small amount of gas. A new company, Albania Shell Exploration and Production, will operate the two blocks.

## Acquisition boost for Stagecoach

By SARAH BAGNALL

ACQUISITIONS helped to boost interim profits 63 per cent at Stagecoach Holdings, the Perth bus company currently the subject of two investigations by the Monopolies Commission.

Pre-tax profits rose to £14.5 million from £8.9 million in the 24 weeks to October 15 with acquisitions contributing £3.8 million. Turnover increased from £81 million to £126.3 million, helped by a £47.3 million contribution from acquisitions. The shares rose 12p to 227p.

Brian Souter, chairman, said operations performed well, reflected in increased margins. Stripping out acquisitions, UK operating profits improved to £11.7 million from £8.6 million. Margins of the UK companies owned by the group when it came to market in 1993 are more than 18 per cent, but those of businesses acquired since flotation are well below 18 per cent. Derek

Scott, finance director, said attention in the current year would be focused on improving margins of the acquired companies by cost cuts and revenue improvements.

The dividend is 1.65p (1.5p), to be paid out of earnings of 7.3p (4.4p) on February 17.

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Souter: margins ahead

## Fidelity halts year-end dividend

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH  
IN NEW YORK

FIDELITY, the American fund manager, shocked Wall Street yesterday when it announced that it would not pay a year-end dividend on its Magellan Fund, the largest mutual fund in the United States, because of an accounting error. Analysts said investors had been hoping for a general, year-end shares rally and that the Fidelity news had shaken this belief.

Fidelity officials said the revision was not a reflection of the performance of the stock and bond markets, which have been sluggish for most of the year, but was

caused solely by the calculation error. The company had predicted in November the fund would distribute \$4.32 per share on the \$30.6 billion fund, which has about 3 million shareholders. The fund paid \$2.77 per share to investors in May. Last year, Magellan paid out distributions of \$7.25 per share, including \$4.33 at year's end.

"In the normal recalculation, we uncovered an error which meant no year-end distribution," a Fidelity spokeswoman said. The new estimate will not affect customers or the fund's price because \$4.32 was only an estimate, she added.

Magellan, which was founded in 1963, has fallen about 3.8 per cent in value so

far this year. By contrast, stocks that comprise the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, one of the broadest barometers of the stock market, have fallen 2.52 per cent.

Some observers said that the announcement could frighten investors away from mutual funds.

Meanwhile, Merrill Lynch said that the US stock market may flag further by the end of this year and that some additional weakness is likely in early 1995. This could "produce a major low and lead to a new bull market cycle, probably starting in the first half of the year", Richard McCabe, the company's chief market analyst, said.

## Worries over car sales

CARMAKERS complained that 1994 car sales are unlikely to reach the 2 million level at which the industry believes it becomes profitable (George Sivell writes).

Ernie Thompson, the chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "Assuming that December this year is in line with December 1993, the full-year market will exceed 1.9

million, but it will fall well below the two million level needed by the industry to be profitable." Sales for the first 11 months of 1994 are, however, up 7.8 per cent on 1993.

Registrations in November totalled 126,854, a 0.6 per cent fall on the same month in 1993. The figures were described as depressing by Neil Marshall, Retail Motor Industry Federation policy director.

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□ Portals' shareholders deserve a formal offer □ Ken and Eddie cannot ignore growth □ A squeeze in northern Cyprus

## On the road again

□ HOWEVER high the security fence that surrounds the Portals and De La Rue banknote printing businesses, the corporate centre is apparently leaking like a sieve.

We have all been here before, and we didn't much enjoy it the first time. To recap on events of last May: Portals announced a bid approach, widely accepted to be from De La Rue, days before that company's involvement was grudgingly revealed. The disclosure was forced on the company by a share price that ran away with itself, amid suggestions that the sort of fringe brokers you wouldn't want to invite around to tea were doing the buying.

Within a fortnight the whole deal was off and the price plunged again, leaving several investors with burnt fingers, although it is a fair bet few of the aforementioned brokers were among them. Inevitably, no action has since apparently been taken against the same, although the dread catchism "We Always Investigate Suspicious Share Price Movements" has been invoked by the Stock Exchange.

Seven months on, more of the same. Portals, in response to a share price that shot ahead by 9 per cent yesterday, said that, yes, it was in bid talks with De La Rue, with whom it enjoys "an exceptionally close commercial relationship".

A bit too damned close, might be the response of its shareholders. Portals produces the specialist paper on which De La Rue prints the actual banknotes. The May talks broke down because the two boards, without reference to their investors, were unable to agree on price. Now De La Rue has said that there will be no offer for Portals without the blessing of the latter's board.

The failure of a hostile bid would preclude another offer, even an agreed one, at a lower price for a year. Also hovering over the affair is the Bank of England, which provides Portals with as much as 20 per cent of the business of its banknote paper business and would have to give informal blessing to any deal.

Likewise, both group's customers elsewhere would take a view. The two companies' growth is founded on two factors: the increasing sophistication of the counterfeiters, which has required more expensive methods of banknote production, and geopolitics, the apparently endless creation of small new

countries, each at once keen to have its own currency, out of the old power blocks. But political considerations notwithstanding, the Portals/De La Rue farrago has come to a point where shareholders by now have the right to take their own view, by accepting or rejecting a formal offer. Portals' shares now stand on 20 times' this year's earnings, giving De La Rue a fair idea what it needs to pay. The two managements have done quite enough talking, and it is time for De La Rue to accept it will not gain board agreement and make its play, or to leave Portals in peace.

### Boom is a turkey for consumers

□ WHEN Ken meets Eddie for their monthly assignation today, they will have two bizarrely different worlds to ponder. These worlds seem to have less in common than the canny Chancellor and the steady Governor. The "feel-bad" world of consumers must figure in the Chancellor's mind, even if it is no more



than an off-stage whine. In that world, car sales fell again in November and manufacturers reported particularly weak sales to individuals. The Halifax Building Society estimated that house prices were marginally lower in November 1994 than a year earlier and have stagnated since spring. On the high street, where clothing chains dream of a brief seasonal non-sale period, the latest weekly sales figures from the John Lewis department store group were 0.1 per cent above the same week a year ago. The Retail Consortium reckoned November was another dismal month all round. After a slow start, there will doubtless be a last-minute Christmas rush.

steadiest, most sober progress that might be imagined. The Treasury reckons consumer spending will have risen by 2½ per cent this year, the same as in 1993, the same as forecast for 1995 and roughly the same as the economy's assumed sustainable growth rate.

The "feel-bad" world of the financial markets translates, in the Governor's ear, as growing inflationary expectations. In this world, the prospect of more tax rises hitting consumers does not figure. It was known before. The Budget was viewed as mildly expansionary. Public spending is to rise in real terms in 1995-96, instead of falling. Though few were seen dancing in the streets, various concessions and phasing operations netted nearly £1 billion of tax cuts. With the economy already growing at 4 per cent this year and a projected 3½ per cent in 1995, interest rates will have to rise even more steeply than thought. The Governor should press his case now for fear that an overheating economy will be fuelled by sheaves of pre-election tax cuts.

The compromise forecast is a

rate rise sensitively timed after Christmas. Aimed mainly at consumers, this would lack obvious immediate relevance.

### Nadir yet to come

□ ASIL Nadir has long seemed to be the exception to the law that a prophet is without honour in his own land. The administration of Turkish Northern Cyprus, which has helped Polly Peck on its mysterious progress with the aid of properties "vacated" by their former Greek owners, stood by him against administrators, sheltered him from British courts and, at least in the early days, made something of a hero of this son of the soil.

This inspiring example of mutual loyalty seems to be coming to a messy end. Rauf Denktaş, still president of the breakaway community, called yesterday for the entrepreneur to be arrested for failing to pay taxes. He should not, said the veteran leader, be treated differently from others. The local government itself appears, more

pragmatically, to be bargaining a handover of assets to the Polly Peck administrators in return for payment of their local, mainly tax, debts.

British investors, foolhardy enough to back Nadir in his prime, will perhaps have little sympathy for the straitened circumstances of the former Polly Peck boss. He ceased to deliver. And after he had been toppled due to the attentions of the Serious Fraud Office, his desire to preserve as much as possible for himself did not help maximise what was left of the once-mighty Polly Peck empire. In the end, however, their attitude may not be much different to that of the Northern Cyprus authorities. When power and popularity are earned purely by money, honour does not for ever outlive profit.

### Pylon pile

□ SOMETIMES the figures from the electricity industry beggar belief. Midlands yesterday revealed that the company paid £155 million to buy in 10 per cent of the share capital this autumn but was still left with another £60 million-£70 million in the bank, a figure that, seasonal trends disregarding, cannot but climb from now on. Forget Portals and De La Rue — the real licence to print money is in electricity.



Barrie Stephens, left, and Allen Yurko have led Siebe to a 28 per cent profits rise and are upbeat on trading prospects

## Cheerful Siebe cannot sidestep market slide

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

AN UPBEAT trading statement and strong first-half profits growth and improvement in margins were not enough to save shares in Siebe, the diversified engineer, from sliding with the market. The company's shares ended 5p lower, at 548p, in spite of a rise in pre-tax profits to £119.5 million, from £93 million, in the half-year to September 30. Barrie Stephens, chairman, said that strong economic growth in the first half was expected to continue in the rest of the year. Siebe sells its wide range of control and other engineering products direct to industry and has little exposure to consumer spending. Mr Stephens said that the

most promising sign in the first half was the emergence of economic growth in continental Europe, which had so far been left out of the general world economic upturn. The company is therefore assuming sales growth there of 3 to 4 per cent for the current year, even though activity on the Continent remained somewhat subdued. "So far as the economies of the world are concerned, North America continues to exhibit strong growth," Mr Stephens added. Business activity had strengthened across all areas of the group's operations in the UK, and the Far East had seen good progress in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand and

signs of steady improvement from Japan and Australia. Turnover was up by 13 per cent, to £1,012 million, against the pre-tax profit rise of 28.5 per cent. The interim dividend rises by 10 per cent, from 3.66p to 4.03p, due on April 7, from earnings per share up by 23 per cent, to 16.2p. Allen Yurko, chief executive, said that the Far East had been exceptionally buoyant, with sales up by 30 per cent in the first half. US operations had shown strong growth, with about 20 per cent of the sales increase there coming from gains in market share. UK sales were up by 9.5 per cent in the first half, and exports from the UK were up

about 10 per cent, to £100 million. Across the divisions, the temperature and appliance controls side lifted operating profits by 8.5 per cent, to £57.4 million. The controls systems side, which includes the American Foxboro company, lifted sales by almost 25 per cent and profits by 32 per cent, to £57.2 million. Margins grew from 14.5 per cent to 15.4 per cent. Zafar Khan, an analyst with SGST, said most people had pencilled in forecasts of £260 million pre-tax profits for the year. Siebe's improving of already strong margins would prompt the question: "What do you do for an encore?"

Tempus, page 28

## Midlands lifts payout and joins Grid share giveaway

BY OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

MIDLANDS Electricity, the second of the regional electricity companies in England and Wales to announce half-way figures this autumn, has confirmed the trend of 20 per cent-plus dividend increases from the sector and a giveaway to its shareholders in the spring in the form of free shares in the National Grid. The Grid is jointly owned by all 12 regional companies and another, Seeboard, has already indicated it will be demerging its holding and handing the shares out once the Grid is floated next May. Now Midlands has confirmed that it intends, "subject to the agreement of satisfactory terms", to pass on its ownership of the Grid to shareholders and customers. Bryan Townsend, the chairman, said: "It's a balance between the taxman, the shareholders and the customers." The elec-



Bryan Townsend, left, and Mike Hughes, chief executive

tricity industry is expected to sweeten the Grid float with rebates to its customers worth £250 million, and the sale will also attract capital gains tax of upwards of £1 billion. Midlands was announcing an interim dividend pushed ahead by 21.6 per cent to 9.3p, to be paid on March 24 out of

earnings per share that advanced by 4p to 34.1p. Pre-tax profits were boosted by 14 per cent to £102.4 million, fuelled by a 3 per cent growth in the amount of electricity distributed within Midlands' region.

Utilities audit, page 29

## Hazlewood takes a tumble

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

PROFITS at Hazlewood Foods, the food manufacturer, fell to £10.7 million before tax in the half year to October 1 from £23.3 million previously as a result of start-up problems at four plants. Kevin Higginson, finance director, said that the problems cost the company £7 million. He said that one plant had been sold, two were now profitable, and the fourth was at break-even at the end of the six-month period.

The company has held its interim dividend at 2.4p a share, covered 1.6 times by earnings of 3.7p a share, reduced from 6.94p, to be paid on January 23. Mr Higginson said the dividend was held because "we do not believe that low profitability is a continuing situation". He added that the super-market price wars continued to be a problem, making it difficult to push up prices.

## Ritz high-rollers chip away at casino profits

BY CARL MORTSHED

THE odds were slightly better for the high-rolling gamblers at the Ritz this year as first-half operating profits at London Clubs International dipped from £19 million to £18.1 million.

The company, which owns nine casinos, from the Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs to the Golden Nugget, said last year's first-half performance was due to abnormally high winnings from the Ritz. Alan Goodenough, chief executive, is expanding the group at the lower end of the market and the contribution of the two upmarket establishments con-

tributed 69 per cent of the profit, compared with 84 per cent last year. An increase in attendance at casinos was not matched by higher spending per head and pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 fell from £17.9 million to £17.3 million. However, the dividend is up from 3.97p a share to 4.25p, on increased earnings per share of 16.5p (16p). Mr Goodenough explained that high rollers were those who could afford to lose a few hundred thousand a year.

Tempus, page 28

## Prudential pulls out of Canadian market

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

PRUDENTIAL Corporation, the United Kingdom's largest insurer, has sold its loss-making Canadian life assurance and savings businesses to the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada for £230 million (£106 million) in cash.

Prudential has, however, agreed to purchase assets owned by the sold businesses for a total of £430 million (£200 million).

These include the purchase of mortgages and bonds for their market value of £330 million (£144 million) for cash and other assets, principally

properties, with a value of about £520 million (£6 million). These assets are not expected to be held permanently within shareholders' funds.

The sale reflects the Prudential's desire to focus its North American operations on the United States. Mick Newmarch, Prudential chief executive, said: "Although North America is one of our chosen world markets, we have, given the size of our operation in Canada, decided to concentrate our resources on developing our companies in the United States."

# "Siebe's success isn't just here and there."

| Interim results for the six months ended September 30, 1994 | 1994      | 1993    | % Change |
|---|-----------|---------|----------|
| Turnover  | £1,012.1m | £895.3m | +13.0    |
| Profit before tax   | £119.5m   | £93.0m  | +28.5    |
| Operating cash flow   | £75.7m    | £69.3m  | +9.2     |
| Earnings per share  | 16.2p     | 13.2p   | +22.7    |
| Dividend per share  | 4.03p     | 3.66p   | +10.1    |

So far as the economies of the world are concerned, North America continues to exhibit strong growth. Business activity in the United Kingdom has strengthened across all segments of our operations, while activity throughout the rest of Continental Europe, although showing signs of life, is still somewhat subdued. The Far East is

exceptionally buoyant with strong growth in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, while Japan and Australia are now showing signs of steady improvement. In South America and Africa economic activity remains stable. In summary, the first half has been very satisfying and all the signs are that strong growth will continue into the balance of the year.



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## STOCK MARKET

PHILIP PANGALOS

## Heavy falls trimmed after roller-coaster session

DEALERS' nerves were rattled as shares suffered another roller-coaster session, although heavy early falls were trimmed by the close.

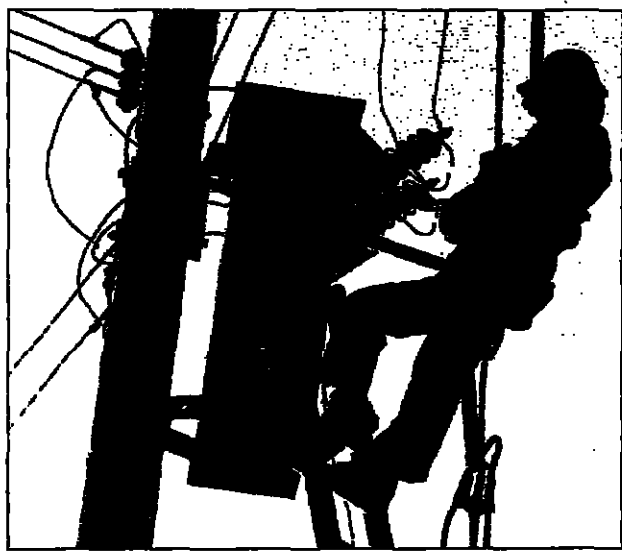
Shares spent the entire day in negative territory, with the FT-SE 100 index initially crashing through the important 3,000 level, with the index nursing a deficit of 41.1 points at one point, touching a low of 2,992.4.

Dealers were spooked by heightened political uncertainty ahead of last night's House of Commons vote on raising VAT on domestic fuel bills and concern about a possible further increase in domestic interest rates. Rate rise fears were fuelled by concern that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, would argue for another base rate rise in his monthly meeting with the Bank's Monetary Committee.

Weakness was exacerbated by reports that Fidelity's giant Magellan Fund had incurred big losses in the derivatives market, prompting fears that Wall Street would react negatively to the news. In the event, the Boston mutual fund will not make a year-end distribution of taxable income to its three million shareholders because of an accounting error.

However, Wall Street quickly shook off a negative start, with the Dow Jones clawing its way into mildly positive territory by the London close, helping stocks to recover some of their losses. The FT-SE 100 index climbed back above the 3,000 level, closing 17.4 lower at 3,016.1. Volume only reached 432.3 million shares, with activity again centred on the derivatives markets amid reports of heavy futures buying by Goldman Sachs and talk of a programme trade by Smith New Court.

Meanwhile, attention focused on Portals Group, after renewed speculation that De La Rue may bid for Portals sent shares in the maker of banknotes and specialist paper surging 66p to 77p. De La Rue fell 35p to 963p. The share move prompted a joint statement from Portals and De La Rue to reiterate Mr Portals's statement, which said that De La Rue would not make an offer for Portals without the Portals board's recommendation.



Shares in the electricity distribution companies lost power

tion. However, senior traders said that the market still believes a deal will be done, with any offer expected to be in the region of £9 or £10.

Utilities had another politically sensitive day with fears about the outcome of last night's vote prompting share prices in many of the electricity distribution companies to dim. Among the losers, East

415p, in spite of a buy recommendation from Lehman Brothers, the American securities house.

Shares in MAID, the online information service provider that floated at 110p in March amid some controversy, recovered 5p to 50p after an upbeat trading session.

The market's gloomy mood was not helped by a string of

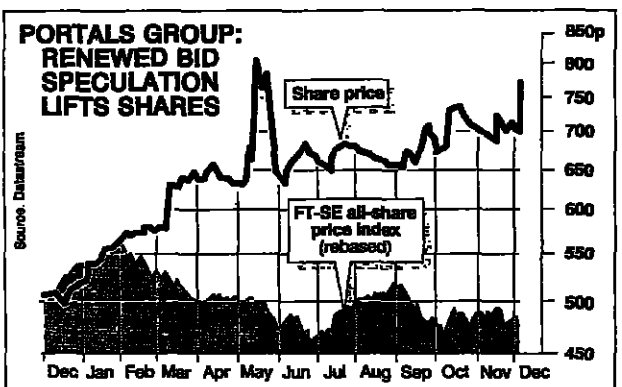
Worries about the impact of mild weather during October and November on clothing sales at Marks and Spencer, down 3p to 389p, and Sainsbury's, up 1p to 104p, has prompted Hoare Govett to trim its current year profit forecasts by £15 million to £950 million for M&S and £4 million to £147 million for Sainsbury's.

Midland fell 13p to 733p, Eastern 17p to 787p, London 10p to 683p, Midlands 15p to 765p, Norwich 16p to 780p, South Wales 14p to 771p, Southern 14p to 786p and Yorkshire 13p to 751p.

Among banks, Kleinwort Benson recommended a switch out of Barclays, down 4p to 600p, and into Lloyds, up 1p to 556p, while Abbey National was unchanged at

uninspiring trading statements. NFC fell 15p to 147p after the freight transport group accompanied a 12 per cent rise in full-year profits with a warning that the group would continue to face tight margins in the UK. This prompted Smith New Court to reduce its current pre-tax profits forecast by £15 million to £115 million.

Powell Duffryn fell 25p to



PORTALS GROUP: RENEWED BID SPECULATION LIFTS SHARES

517p after it accompanied a 67 per cent jump in interim profits with a £70.7 million cash call, at a deeply discounted price of 440p a share, to help it to finance its port expansion plans in Humber-side and Tessaide.

Technical reasons saw BTR go against the largely negative trend, with the shares adding 7p to 284p as traders suggested that the stock is oversold. But Cable and Wireless fell 9p to 368p as the market digested the implications of Mercury's rationalisation moves.

Stagecoach also moved forward against the general trend, adding 12p to 227p, after the bus and coach operator revealed a 63 per cent jump in profits.

Good interim profit figures from London Clubs, up 3p to 283p, provided a boost for Ladbrokes, up 1p to 150p, and Rank Organisation, up 1p to 42p.

VSEI held steady at £15.35 after British Aerospace, down 2p to 437p, revealed only 0.462 per cent total acceptance at the first closing date in its bid fight with GEC for the Trident submarine maker. GEC, due to report on Friday, held steady at 273p.

Shares in USM-quoted Seaford Resources gushed 14p higher to 87p on news of a significant new oil discovery. But Allied Colloids slid 13p to 117p after reporting worse than expected interim results, and Fletcher King tumbled 11p to 34p after sliding into the red at the interim stage. Sterling Publishing slid 15p to 118p, with dealers attributing the slide to a badly handled sale order.

GLT-EDGED: Government stocks had another weak start, nervous about the outcome of last night's Commons vote, today's £2 billion auction and the monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England. An absence of buyers saw the March series of the long gilt future hit a low of £101 1/2 before a partial recovery to close at £101 1/2, down 11 ticks, on moderate volume of 55,000 contracts traded. Among cash stocks, losses stretched to £5 at the larger end, with medium dated and index-linked issues fell by about £5.

NEW YORK: Shares were mixed at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average up 6.39 at 3,748.31.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 3,748.31 (+6.39)  
S&P Composite 453.66 (+0.33)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 19,940.47 (+34.81)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 8,332.65 (+30.12)

Amsterdam:  
EEX Index 411.18 (+2.17)

Sydney:  
All Ordinaries 1,891.2 (+6.3)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 2,046.88 (+24.34)

Singapore:  
Straits 2,187.07 (+1.50)

Brussels:  
General 7310.28 (+29.02)

Paris:  
CAC-40 1,968.95 (+4.70)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 1,075.54

London:  
FT 30 2,918.3 (+0.6)

FT 100 3,016.1 (+17.4)

FT-Mid 250 2,992.4 (-28.1)

FT-SE 100 3,016.1 (+17.4)

FT-All-Share 1,997.7 (+9.33)

FT Non Financials 1,616.6 (+9.99)

FT Food & Drink 2,174.1 (+1.6)

FT Financials 1,092.3 (+0.38)

FT Chemicals 1,910.3 (+0.39)

FT Media 1,792.2

FT Energy 1,524.6 (+0.78)

FT Telecom 1,563.0 (+0.004)

FT Utilities 1,457.5 (+0.003)

FT Pharmaceuticals 1,013.2 (+0.2)

FT Consumer Goods 1,281.7

FT Industrial 1,075.4

FT Real Estate 1,075.4

FT Shipping 1,075.4

FT Transport 1,075.4

FT Services 1,075.4

FT Other 1,075.4

FT Total 1,075.4

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# THE TIMES

## CITY DIARY

### Monopoly men out in force

THERE is an ironic twist to tonight's third annual City Monopoly Challenge, the proceeds from which will benefit the charity Children with Leukemia. The event, at which 35 City teams will pit their wits and their paper wealth against each other, is hosted by Waddingtons Games, holder of the UK rights to Monopoly and which, until last week, was a division of John Waddington. The games division has since been sold to the American toys group Hasbro Inc for £50 million. Among tonight's players will be Hasbro's UK managing director Brian Ellis, Waddingtons Games managing director Allan Thompson, and Mike Grabsky of Midland Bank, a former UK Monopoly champion. NatWest is providing real bankers to run the bank. Abbey National has won for the past two years, and is in danger of claiming its own monopoly of the team trophy. Also fielding a Monopoly team is Cazneau, John Waddington's broker, and through whose hands the sale of the games division to Hasbro will have passed. If the Cazneau team hears onlookers urging them "go to jail", it won't necessarily be with a corner of the Monopoly board in mind.

### Axeman

THE shock of 2,500 redundancies was lightened for Mercury employees who spotted yesterday's front page photograph in *The Times Business News*. The gum looking staff member peering out from behind an office blind with telephone in hand, and with left hand on head giving a Scout's sign for "Come here" was not, as it might have seemed, someone worried about losing his job. The person in question was, in fact, personal director Robert Johnston — the man responsible for wielding the axe.



"How many of our banknotes for one of your shares?"

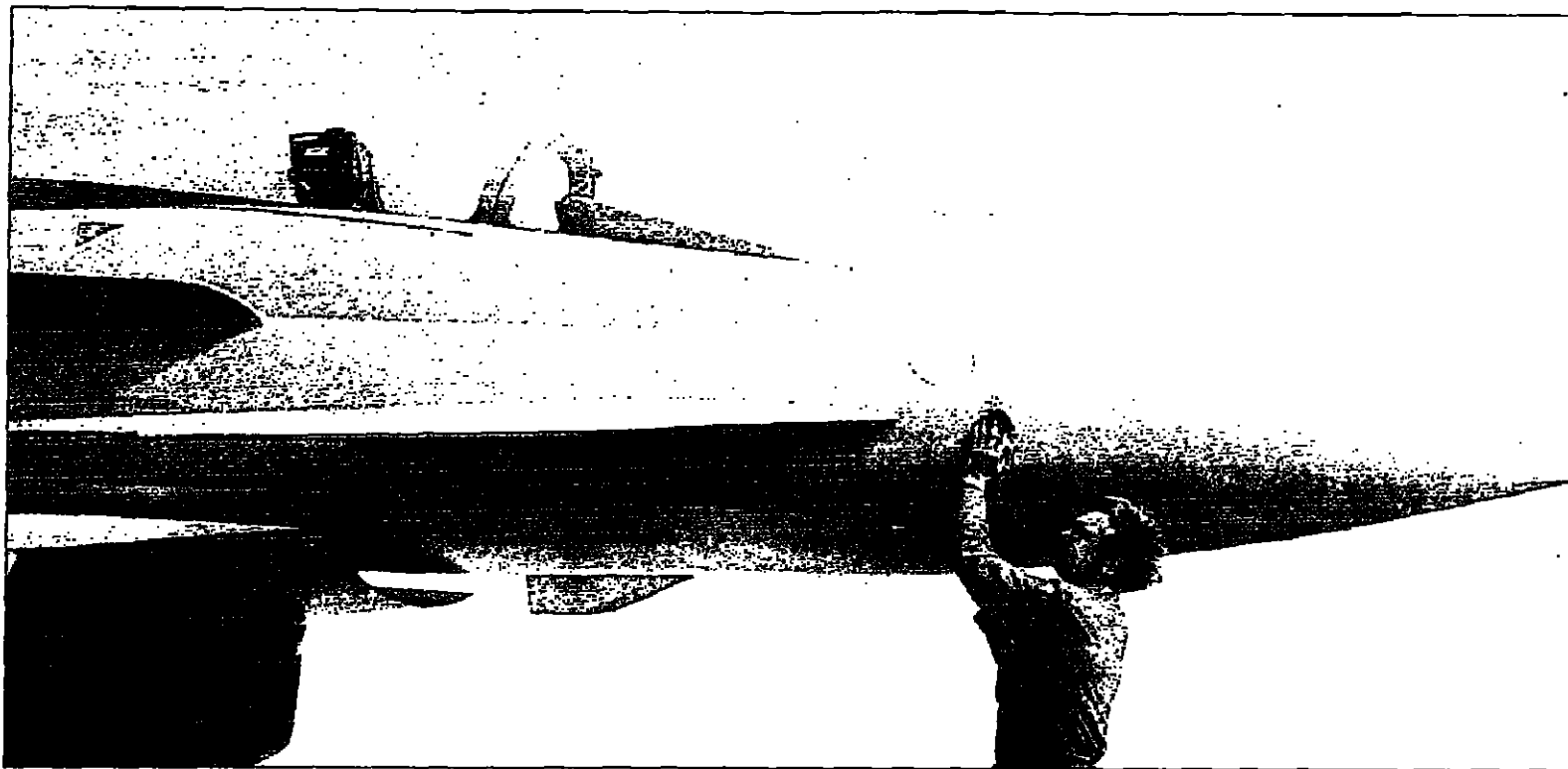
### Sharp tongue

WARBURGS, the merchant bank, which in response to poorer profits shed ten among its numbers last month, declines to confirm or deny whether the costs axe continues to cut through its hallowed halls. But I can vouch for this remark from one insider. "Our chairman doesn't use an axe. He uses a Stanley knife". Ouch!

### Super-shredder

STAND aside, James Bond. Yorkberry Business Machines of Lambourn, Berkshire, has just won an order to supply Camelot, the National Lottery organisers, with a hyper-secure shredder whose mission is to destroy unsold lottery tickets. The machine is aptly named Agent 009. It costs £35,000, is already deployed in defence, banking, printing and building society circles, and "can destroy more than 300 kilos of paper an hour". Here's hoping the machine will only destroy unsold tickets.

COLIN CAMPBELL



The Eurofighter, which the UK is developing jointly with Germany, Spain and Italy, will cost £30 billion to bring into production

## Government calls British defence firms to arms

Ross Tieman looks at a drive to persuade the United Kingdom's arms industry to reorganise itself on a Europe-wide basis

A decade ago, it would have been almost unthinkable that Britain should equip its army, navy or air force with weapons from Germany or France. Today, it is inevitable.

In a speech to the Defence Manufacturers' Association, Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, will today abandon the fiction that Britain is still big enough to fund the development of whole weapons platforms — aircraft, ships and tanks — and the computers, radar and missiles that give them their sting.

Instead, in a bold policy shift, he will call on our arms industry to reorganise itself on a Europe-wide basis. Future weapons programmes, he says, should be based on the design and development of a single European platform, using the best available weapons and systems from a spread of countries.

Companies with a leading position in particular technologies, such as the General Electric Company in radar, BAe-Sema in ship command and control systems, or British Aerospace in aircraft wing technology, should reinforce their dominance by taking over weaker competitors. They will form the core of the British defence industry in the next century. But where foreign companies have a leading edge, such as French concerns in air-to-air missiles, British firms must take appropriate action — seeking a merger if need be.

The policy shift is likely to be welcomed by many in the arms industry as an overdue recognition that the Government cannot escape its role in rationalisation. Building weapons is still Britain's biggest manufacturing industry, generating £10 billion of sales a year and employing 400,000 workers, half of them on export orders.

Defence workers throughout Europe have already faced massive cuts, both because spending has reduced and because the type of forces and equipment required have changed since the collapse of the Berlin Wall. A fall in the number of ships, aircraft and tanks purchased has coincided with rising unit costs. The application of computing technology has hugely increased

the sophistication of developing new weapons and the final bill. The Eurofighter, developed jointly with Germany, Spain and Italy, will cost £30 billion to bring into production. A third of that bill will be met by the British taxpayer.

But because many of the most powerful Russian weapons are now available for export, European nations feel they have no choice but to remain in the high-tech arms race. Even today, Britain spends £9 billion a year on equipment for the forces. During the 1980s, the MoD switched from fixed-cost contracts to competitive bidding in an effort to drive down the cost of weapons systems and transfer the development costs into the private sector. This contributed to a spate of mergers. The result: the British defence industry is now dominated by just two firms — BAe, the leading prime contractor, responsible for weapons systems, and GEC, the electronics specialist. Since replacing Jonathan Aitken this summer, Mr Freeman has visited many UK defence contractors. He has consulted military commanders and the defence procurement staff and discussed the options with his counterparts in France and Germany.

He has concluded that three policy moves are needed at a European level. First, European force commanders must agree common strategies in response to perceived threats and, hence, common requirements for weapons systems. Second, governments must agree common procurement policies and synchronise timetables, so that each nation can meet its needs from a single weapons programme. And third, "You also need collaboration between companies — by which I mean major equity equity rationalisation, rather than just joint ventures." Projects, such as the Eurofighter, or its predecessor, the Tornado aircraft, were "not true collaboration," he believes, because work was shared out between national champions according to the proportion of total purchases made by countries participating in the programme. The first weapons programme to meet the Freeman criteria will probably be the Common New Generation Frigate, also known as Horizon. It will be jointly developed by Britain, which needs 12, Italy, which wants six, and France, which wants four. Although the hulls will probably be built in each country, radar, command systems, missiles, engines and so forth are likely to be procured by competitive bidding.

According to Mr Freeman, this will allow substantial economies to be achieved. It will also force manufacturers to collaborate as sub-contractors to a single European specialist in each technology. Other projects can be developed on a similar basis, he says, in both tanks and aircraft. Mr Freeman says Britain should retain the

capability to build and arm its nuclear submarines independently, and he acknowledges that contracts will need to ensure that Britain is not denied supplies of equipment and munitions in times of conflict.

He emphasised that the Government was not hostile to collaboration with American defence companies. Indeed, he suggested Britain and the United States might collaborate on a replacement for the ground-attack version of the Tornado GR2, and praised the acquisition of Allison, the US aero-engine maker, by Rolls-Royce. But he said European companies had more in common: they were smaller, and shared the problem of financing ever more complex technology against a background of shrinking national markets.

The convergence of the British and French defence industries has been accelerating. GEC already collaborates with Matra on space systems and Thomson CSF on sonar. BAe is discussing a joint venture with Matra in missiles and possible integration of Royal Ordnance with Giat, the French tanks to munitions group.

Mr Freeman acknowledged the reluctance of France to cede ownership of its state-controlled defence companies. But he said discussions with French and German ministers have shown much common ground. Both French and German procurement chiefs have pleaded with Britain to back development of a pan-European military transport plane and look like being rewarded. Britain can certainly demand concessions in return.

The Government's desire to see horizontal mergers between British defence equipment companies and their European rivals fits neatly with BAe's strategy. But it must also reduce Lord Weinstock's hope of forcing the merger of BAe's defence interests with GEC-Marconi to create a single British defence colossus.

Mr Freeman said: "British defence companies which don't seek horizontal mergers in Europe rather than vertical mergers within the UK are going to be cut or closed," he said. That warning should not be taken lightly.



Freeman: bold policy shift

### Elizabeth Camp reports on the utilities audit

## Calling in the experts can cut firms' energy and phone bills

Privatisation is supposed to have made telephone and utility costs more competitive, but this year British businesses are expected to overpay their utility suppliers by more than £100 million.

Faced with a myriad of new suppliers offering different tariffs, technologies and pricing schemes, many companies are turning to specialist brokers who know where to buy.

In Birmingham, Roy Mawditt's company, Mawditt Manufacturing, churns out one million frozen hamburgers a week. The company is on an industrial estate which shares an electricity pool supplied by Midlands Electricity. Last year, when Mr Mawditt wanted to expand he was told that, as the heaviest power consumer on the block, his plant was already exceeding its electricity limits. If he wanted more burgers, he would have to spend a lot more money to have his own substation built.

However, a mailshot gave Mr Mawditt the idea to call in a utilities broker. That specialist was Jon Henderson, now a director of London-based, Auditel Consultants Limited, a division of the American group Auditel, one of the top two international independent utility auditing firms.

Mr Henderson found Mawditt Manufacturing a better deal on its electricity by switching to a more competitive supplier. The company immediately saved £10,000 on its £60,000 annual electricity bill. A load-spreading capacitor was also installed which stored the plant's electricity



Which tariff? Customers often have to ask about discounts

supply and immediately reduced power draw enabling the plant to raise production capacity without increasing its energy demand. The results were dramatic. "Our annual sales turnover went up from £6.7 million to £8 million and our costs went down," Mr Mawditt says.

Mawditt is not the only business to find itself caught in a profit squeeze with its utility suppliers. SBC Cablecoms in Wolverhampton, a division of Midland Cable Communications, which is owned by the American telecoms group,

Southern Bell, was also one of Jon Henderson's converts.

SBC's combined electricity and gas expenditure presently totals £270,000, or 15 per cent of operating overheads. In the next three years, it hopes to cut this by 20 per cent by using an independent broker. According to Auditel, eight out of ten clients they approach are overcharged by suppliers by an average 15 per cent, and overpayments frequently date back several years.

Overcharges on utilities can easily go unnoticed. Only 1 per cent of British industry ever

applies for a rebate. And few suppliers see it as in their interests to volunteer information on discounts unless the customer asks.

British Telecom, for example, offers discounted charging schemes such as Option 45 designed for small businesses, but it is usually left to the customer to ask for it. Many companies assume that the utilities are compelled by regulation to see that customers receive the lowest rate they are entitled to when in fact, it is up to the customer to get the supply formula right and prove eligibility for special tariff rates and discounts. Yet not all tariffs are published, so businesses face an impossible task of making the right choice without knowing all the pricing alternatives.

After salaries, utility costs can account for anything between 10 and 60 per cent of business operating expense, according to Mr Henderson. "For a small company which doesn't have the resources to shop around, the services of a competent utility bill auditor could make the difference between survival or insolvency," he says.

With further changes to come in the telecoms and gas industry, utility auditors are likely to play an increasingly important role in contract negotiations. In small to mid-sized companies which do not have the dedicated expertise to manage utility costs, the services of a competent broker could become an essential management tool.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## The market is scared of its own shadow

The London equity market has been re-treating in fear of a rise in interest rates today: yet it could hardly give a clearer proof that, objectively, there is no need for one. Comment is much more sensible in New York, where the conventional wisdom is that the Fed has now established its credibility. This was shown, it is argued, when bonds rose while the Dow fell: this is seen as an historic turning point. London has seen just the same events, but has drawn no conclusion from them.

New York believes that the new price pattern means that since the 75-basis point rise in short rates last month, the fears born of the long period of very cheap money are out of date. If the fight against inflation calls for higher rates, the Fed will deliver as necessary. More important, it means that the market now expects the rise to work against inflation, but to hurt real growth. And if inflation is to be contained anywhere near its present low levels, there is little need for the bond or currency markets to worry about it.

Meanwhile, the strength of the dollar should reinforce the bond recovery, as foreign investors (mainly Japanese) lose their fear of currency losses on US bond holdings, and go for the yields. Signs of rising inflation may still appear, most probably in wage settlements; but they are not thought likely to spook the bond market. Inflationary pressure will still be bad news for the business sector, though: it can expect to be squeezed. Equities still have strong underlying support, since sales growth is strong and profit rises much stronger: but the market remains nervous.

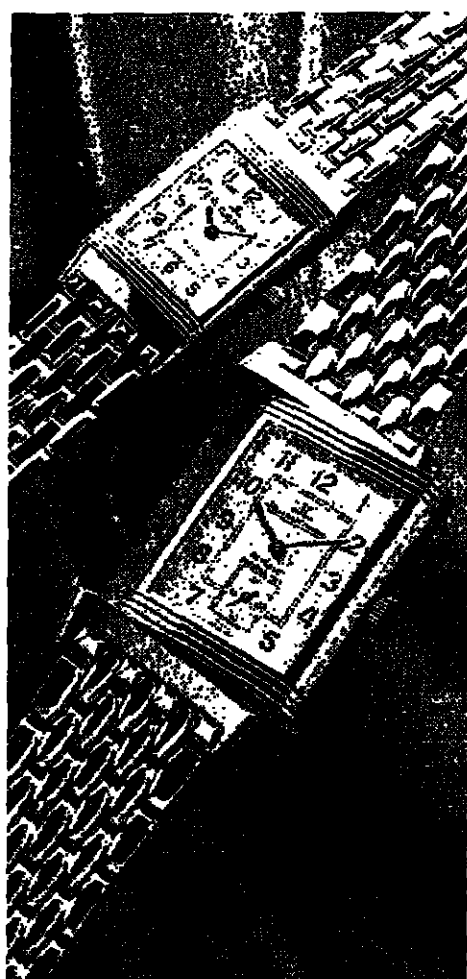
Note that, up to this point, I have only been quoting American views on the American market: but is there a word of it which could not be applied to British conditions? My own view is that the American analysis actually fits London better than it does New York. The British economy shows virtually none of the signs of local overheating now appearing in the US. Inflation is lower and the

current account much stronger, and the fiscal squeeze is very much tighter — indeed, by some way, the tightest in the developed world. Meanwhile, consumer spending is less buoyant than in the US, despite slightly stronger real incomes, and the housing market suggests that interest rates are already quite a bit too high for comfort.

So what is the supposed case for a further rise in rates today, when the Chancellor and the Governor meet? Analysts talk of unexpected strength in output growth (surely good news in the absence of any inflationary consequences); in consumer borrowing (actually weak, but not as weak as some forecasts); and in the growth of M0; but all this is little more than what Denis Healey once called Sado-monetarism, for not even monetarists could expect these numbers yet to have responded to recent rises in British rates. Others simply assert that higher rates are needed to achieve the Chancellor's own inflation target. This is just guesswork dressed up as analysis: the relation between short rates and inflation is complex and unpredictable. I can assert with equal fervour, and equally little justification, that present rates are more than high enough to do the job. In the words of Hilaire Belloc: "Scientists, who ought to know! Assure us that it must be so! Oh, let us never never doubt! What nobody is sure about".

A more plausible case can be built on politics. In its effort to control its own supporters, the Government seems to be near to losing control of events. Indeed, there were early reports that the Chancellor had threatened unruly Tories with higher rates as a punishment for their indiscipline before he fell back on the more logical threat that he would have to find the revenue somewhere else. And the true test is not market comment, but the currency market. Exchange dealers show no signs of the fashionable London hysteria. If the Chancellor and the Governor are sensible, they will show the same calm today.

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# Widespread losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1994 | 1993 | 1992 | 1991 | 1990 | 1989 | 1988 | 1987 | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1976 | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 | 1972 | 1971 | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 | 1962 | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 | 1942 | 1941 | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 | 1935 | 1934 | 1933 | 1932 | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 | 1928 | 1927 | 1926 | 1925 | 1924 | 1923 | 1922 | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | 1915 | 1914 | 1913 | 1912 | 1911 | 1910 | 1909 | 1908 | 1907 | 1906 | 1905 | 1904 | 1903 | 1902 | 1901 | 1900 | 1899 | 1898 | 1897 | 1896 | 1895 | 1894 | 1893 | 1892 | 1891 | 1890 | 1889 | 1888 | 1887 | 1886 | 1885 | 1884 | 1883 | 1882 | 1881 | 1880 | 1879 | 1878 | 1877 | 1876 | 1875 | 1874 | 1873 | 1872 | 1871 | 1870 | 1869 | 1868 | 1867 | 1866 | 1865 | 1864 | 1863 | 1862 | 1861 | 1860 | 1859 | 1858 | 1857 | 1856 | 1855 | 1854 | 1853 | 1852 | 1851 | 1850 | 1849 | 1848 | 1847 | 1846 | 1845 | 1844 | 1843 | 1842 | 1841 | 1840 | 1839 | 1838 | 1837 | 1836 | 1835 | 1834 | 1833 | 1832 | 1831 | 1830 | 1829 | 1828 | 1827 | 1826 | 1825 | 1824 | 1823 | 1822 | 1821 | 1820 | 1819 | 1818 | 1817 | 1816 | 1815 | 1814 | 1813 | 1812 | 1811 | 1810 | 1809 | 1808 | 1807 | 1806 | 1805 | 1804 | 1803 | 1802 | 1801 | 1800 | 1799 | 1798 | 1797 | 1796 | 1795 | 1794 | 1793 | 1792 | 1791 | 1790 | 1789 | 1788 | 1787 | 1786 | 1785 | 1784 | 1783 | 1782 | 1781 | 1780 | 1779 | 1778 | 1777 | 1776 | 1775 | 1774 | 1773 | 1772 | 1771 | 1770 | 1769 | 1768 | 1767 | 1766 | 1765 | 1764 | 1763 | 1762 | 1761 | 1760 | 1759 | 1758 | 1757 | 1756 | 1755 | 1754 | 1753 | 1752 | 1751 | 1750 | 1749 | 1748 | 1747 | 1746 | 1745 | 1744 | 1743 | 1742 | 1741 | 1740 | 1739 | 1738 | 1737 | 1736 | 1735 | 1734 | 1733 | 1732 | 1731 | 1730 | 1729 | 1728 | 1727 | 1726 | 1725 | 1724 | 1723 | 1722 | 1721 | 1720 | 1719 | 1718 | 1717 | 1716 | 1715 | 1714 | 1713 | 1712 | 1711 | 1710 | 1709 | 1708 | 1707 | 1706 | 1705 | 1704 | 1703 | 1702 | 1701 | 1700 | 1699 | 1698 | 1697 | 1696 | 1695 | 1694 | 1693 | 1692 | 1691 | 1690 | 1689 | 1688 | 1687 | 1686 | 1685 | 1684 | 1683 | 1682 | 1681 | 1680 | 1679 | 1678 | 1677 | 1676 | 1675 | 1674 | 1673 | 1672 | 1671 | 1670 | 1669 | 1668 | 1667 | 1666 | 1665 | 1664 | 1663 | 1662 | 1661 | 1660 | 1659 | 1658 | 1657 | 1656 | 1655 | 1654 | 1653 | 1652 | 1651 | 1650 | 1649 | 1648 | 1647 | 1646 | 1645 | 1644 | 1643 | 1642 | 1641 | 1640 | 1639 | 1638 | 1637 | 1636 | 1635 | 1634 | 1633 | 1632 | 1631 | 1630 | 1629 | 1628 | 1627 | 1626 | 1625 | 1624 | 1623 | 1622 | 1621 | 1620 | 1619 | 1618 | 1617 | 1616 | 1615 | 1614 | 1613 | 1612 | 1611 | 1610 | 1609 | 1608 | 1607 | 1606 | 1605 | 1604 | 1603 | 1602 | 1601 | 1600 | 1599 | 1598 | 1597 | 1596 | 1595 | 1594 | 1593 | 1592 | 1591 | 1590 | 1589 | 1588 | 1587 | 1586 | 1585 | 1584 | 1583 | 1582 | 1581 | 1580 | 1579 | 1578 | 1577 | 1576 | 1575 | 1574 | 1573 | 1572 | 1571 | 1570 | 1569 | 1568 | 1567 | 1566 | 1565 | 1564 | 1563 | 1562 | 1561 | 1560 | 1559 | 1558 | 1557 | 1556 | 1555 | 1554 | 1553 | 1552 | 1551 | 1550 | 1549 | 1548 | 1547 | 1546 | 1545 | 1544 | 1543 | 1542 | 1541 | 1540 | 1539 | 1538 | 1537 | 1536 | 1535 | 1534 | 1533 | 1532 | 1531 | 1530 | 1529 | 1528 | 1527 | 1526 | 1525 | 1524 | 1523 | 1522 | 1521 | 1520 | 1519 | 1518 | 1517 | 1516 | 1515 | 1514 | 1513 | 1512 | 1511 | 1510 | 1509 | 1508 | 1507 | 1506 | 1505 | 1504 | 1503 | 1502 | 1501 | 1500 | 1499 | 1498 | 1497 | 1496 | 1495 | 1494 | 1493 | 1492 | 1491 | 1490 | 1489 | 1488 | 1487 | 1486 | 1485 | 1484 | 1483 | 1482 | 1481 | 1480 | 1479 | 1478 | 1477 | 1476 | 1475 | 1474 | 1473 | 1472 | 1471 | 1470 | 1469 | 1468 | 1467 | 1466 | 1465 | 1464 | 1463 | 1462 | 1461 | 1460 | 1459 | 1458 | 1457 | 1456 | 1455 | 1454 | 1453 | 1452 | 1451 | 1450 | 1449 | 1448 | 1447 | 1446 | 1445 | 1444 | 1443 | 1442 | 1441 | 1440 | 1439 | 1438 | 1437 | 1436 | 1435 | 1434 | 1433 | 1432 | 1431 | 1430 | 1429 | 1428 | 1427 | 1426 | 1425 | 1424 | 1423 | 1422 | 1421 | 1420 | 1419 | 1418 | 1417 | 1416 | 1415 | 1414 | 1413 | 1412 | 1411 | 1410 | 1409 | 1408 | 1407 | 1406 | 1405 | 1404 | 1403 | 1402 | 1401 | 1400 | 1399 | 1398 | 1397 | 1396 | 1395 | 1394 | 1393 | 1392 | 1391 | 1390 | 1389 | 1388 | 1387 | 1386 | 1385 | 1384 | 1383 | 1382 | 1381 | 1380 | 1379 | 1378 | 1377 | 1376 | 1375 | 1374 | 1373 | 1372 | 1371 | 1370 | 1369 | 1368 | 1367 | 1366 | 1365 | 1364 | 1363 | 1362 | 1361 | 1360 | 1359 | 1358 | 1357 | 1356 | 1355 | 1354 | 1353 | 1352 | 1351 | 1350 | 1349 | 1348 | 1347 | 1346 | 1345 | 1344 | 1343 | 1342 | 1341 | 1340 | 1339 | 1338 | 1337 | 1336 | 1335 | 1334 | 1333 | 1332 | 1331 | 1330 | 1329 | 1328 | 1327 | 1326 | 1325 | 1324 | 1323 | 1322 | 1321 | 1320 | 1319 | 1318 | 1317 | 1316 | 1315 | 1314 | 1313 | 1312 | 1311 | 1310 | 1309 | 1308 | 1307 | 1306 | 1305 | 1304 | 1303 | 1302 | 1301 | 1300 | 1299 | 1298 | 1297 | 1296 | 1295 | 1294 | 1293 | 1292 | 1291 | 1290 | 1289 | 1288 | 1287 | 1286 | 1285 | 1284 | 1283 | 1282 | 1281 | 1280 | 1279 | 1278 | 1277 | 1276 | 1275 | 1274 | 1273 | 1272 | 1271 | 1270 | 1269 | 1268 | 1267 | 1266 | 1265 | 1264 | 1263 | 1262 | 1261 | 1260 | 1259 | 1258 | 1257 | 1256 | 1255 | 1254 | 1253 | 1252 | 1251 | 1250 | 1249 | 1248 | 1247 | 1246 | 1245 | 1244 | 1243 | 1242 | 1241 | 1240 | 1239 | 1238 | 1237 | 1236 | 1235 | 1234 | 1233 | 1232 | 1231 | 1230 | 1229 | 1228 | 1227 | 1226 | 1225 | 1224 | 1223 | 1222 | 1221 | 1220 | 1219 | 1218 | 1217 | 1216 | 1215 | 1214 | 1213 | 1212 | 1211 | 1210 | 1209 | 1208 | 1207 | 1206 | 1205 | 1204 | 1203 | 1202 | 1201 | 1200 | 1199 | 1198 | 1197 | 1196 | 1195 | 1194 | 1193 | 1192 | 1191 | 1190 | 1189 | 1188 | 1187 | 1186 | 1185 | 1184 | 1183 | 1182 | 1181 | 1180 | 1179 | 1178 | 1177 | 1176 | 1175 | 1174 | 1173 | 1172 | 1171 | 1170 | 1169 | 1168 | 1167 | 1166 | 1165 | 1164 | 1163 | 1162 | 1161 | 1160 | 1159 | 1158 | 1157 | 1156 | 1155 | 1154 | 1153 | 1152 | 1151 | 1150 | 1149 | 1148 | 1147 | 1146 | 1145 | 1144 | 1143 | 1142 | 1141 | 1140 | 1139 | 1138 | 1137 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| 992 | 991 | 990 | 989 | 988 | 987 | 986 | 985 | 984 | 983 | 982 | 981 | 980 | 979 | 978 | 977 | 976 | 975 | 974 | 973 | 972 | 971 | 970 | 969 | 968 | 967 | 966 | 965 | 964 | 963 | 962 | 961 | 960 | 959 | 958 | 957 | 956 | 955 | 954 | 953 | 952 | 951 | 950 | 949 | 948 | 947 | 946 | 945 | 944 | 943 | 942 | 941 | 940 | 939 | 938 | 937 | 936 | 935 | 934 | 933 | 932 | 931 | 930 | 929 | 928 | 927 | 926 | 925 | 924 | 923 | 922 | 921 | 920 | 919 | 918 | 917 | 916 | 915 | 914 | 913 | 912 | 911 | 910 | 909 | 908 | 907 | 906 | 905 | 904 | 903 | 902 | 901 | 900 | 899 | 898 | 897 | 896 | 895 | 894 | 893 | 892 | 891 | 890 | 889 | 888 | 887 | 886 | 885 | 884 | 883 | 882 | 881 | 880 | 879 | 878 | 877 | 876 | 875 | 874 | 873 | 872 | 871 | 870 | 869 | 868 | 867 | 866 | 865 | 864 | 863 | 862 | 861 | 860 | 859 | 858 | 857 | 856 | 855 | 854 | 853 | 852 | 851 | 850 | 849 | 848 | 847 | 846 | 845 | 844 | 843 | 842 | 841 | 840 | 839 | 838 | 837 | 836 | 835 | 834 | 833 | 832 | 831 | 830 | 829 | 828 | 827 | 826 | 825 | 824 | 823 | 822 | 821 | 820 | 819 | 818 | 817 | 816 | 815 | 814 | 813 | 812 | 811 | 810 | 809 | 808 | 807 | 806 | 805 | 804 | 803 | 802 | 801 | 800 | 799 | 798 | 797 | 796 | 795 | 794 | 793 | 792 | 791 | 790 | 789 | 788 | 787 | 786 | 785 | 784 | 783 | 782 | 781 | 780 | 779 | 778 | 777 | 776 | 775 | 774 | 773 | 772 | 771 | 770 | 769 | 768 | 767 | 766 | 765 | 764 | 763 | 762 | 761 | 760 | 759 | 758 | 757 | 756 | 755 | 754 | 753 | 752 | 751 | 750 | 749 | 748 | 747 | 746 | 745 | 744 | 743 | 742 | 741 | 740 | 739 | 738 | 737 | 736 | 735 | 734 | 733 | 732 | 731 | 730 | 729 | 728 | 727 | 726 | 725 | 724 | 723 | 722 | 721 | 720 | 719 | 718 | 717 | 716 | 715 | 714 | 713 | 712 | 711 | 710 | 709 | 708 | 707 | 706 | 705 | 704 | 703 | 702 | 701 | 700 | 699 | 698 | 697 | 696 | 695 | 694 | 693 | 692 | 691 | 690 | 689 | 688 | 687 | 686 | 685 | 684 | 683 | 682 | 681 | 680 | 679 | 678 | 677 | 676 | 675 | 674 | 673 | 672 | 671 | 670 | 669 | 668 | 667 | 666 | 665 | 664 | 663 | 662 | 661 | 660 | 659 | 658 | 657 | 656 | 655 | 654 | 653 | 652 | 651 | 650 | 649 | 648 | 647 | 646 | 645 | 644 | 643 | 642 | 641 | 640 | 639 | 638 | 637 | 636 | 635 | 634 | 633 | 632 | 631 | 630 | 629 | 628 | 627 | 626 | 625 | 624 | 623 | 622 | 621 | 620 | 619 | 618 | 617 | 616 | 615 | 614 | 613 | 612 | 611 | 610 | 609 | 608 | 607 | 606 | 605 | 604 | 6 |
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# Iberia jobs in peril as pilots snub rescue plan



Iberia: talks have failed

FROM REUTERS  
IN MADRID

IBERIA, the Spanish airline, said that it would have to cut jobs and sell assets to ward off bankruptcy after the breakdown of crisis talks between management and pilots on an alternative rescue plan yesterday.

The pilots' union refused to agree to an alternative plan of salary cuts after long negotiation, in spite of agreement by most of Iberia's workers to sacrifice wages rather than jobs and assets.

Iberia said that it had no alternative but to begin implementing, on Monday, a drastic programme to shed 5,200 of its 24,000 workforce and to

split off group assets before their eventual sale.

Juan Manuel Eguilaz, the Spanish Industry Minister, said: "This does not mean the end of Iberia, but it certainly does mean the company will have to reduce drastically its potential." He was disappointed at "deception" by the pilots, who on Monday had indicated publicly that they were prepared to accept a pay cut of about 15 per cent.

Iberia said that the pilots had done an about-face and had refused to accept cuts exceeding 2.7 per cent.

Representatives of Sepia, the pilots' union, called for the resignation of Iberia management, accusing it of

gross incompetence, and said that a new plan was needed.

However, Javier Salas, Iberia's chairman, said that the pilots had not put forward any new ideas and that their objections were related purely to salary cuts. "Iberia is surprised at the pilots' position," he said. "They didn't make generalisations about how it would not secure Iberia's future."

Last week, Iberia agreed with the other unions — representing about 95 per cent of the workforce — on pay cuts of 15 per cent and the loss of about 3,000 jobs. However, the deal was dependent on pilots accepting the plan. Señor Eguilaz said that he

hoped the new situation would not lead to unrest. Iberia unions staged a 24-hour strike on November 28 before the agreement that the pilots have rejected.

Iberia hopes that its restructuring will win approval from the European Commission for a capital injection of 100 billion to 130 billion pesetas (£490 million to £635 million). Without new capital, Iberia will have to make more than 5,000 redundancies and sell subsidiaries, such as its Binter and Viva networks, or such activities as handling and catering to survive. The Spanish Government and the European Commission have made clear that they will not consider a capital injection unless Iberia has a credible restructuring plan in place.

## Employees to share £8m after port takeover

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

EMPLOYEES of Teesside Holdings, the first major trust port to be privatised, will share £8.6 million after a takeover by Powell Duffryn.

A total of 338 employees invested in the privatisation, paying just £1.07 for each share two years ago. The largest individual shareholder will make a profit of almost £60,000. The average profit will be £23,940.

Powell Duffryn plans to spend £98.4 million to acquire control of Teesside, owner of Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, and Humberside Holdings, which provides services mainly in and around ports at the confluence of the Humber, Trent and Ouse rivers on the East Coast of England. Powell Duffryn has been involved in the owner-

ship of Teesside since 1992 and Humberside since 1976.

Funding for the acquisitions will be drawn from the proceeds of a £70.7 million rights issue, with new shares offered on the basis of one for every four existing shares held at 440p each.

Yesterday, Powell Duffryn shares fell to 515p from 542p after the company returned profits before exceptional items of £16.6 million (£16.8 million) for the six months to September 30.

Powell Duffryn will acquire 50 per cent of Humberside from the joint venture partners, comprising John Holloway, chief executive of Teesside and a director of Humberside, and associated parties.

It will also acquire 31.67 per cent of Teesside's ordinary shares and 33 per cent of Teesside's preference shares from 31, the venture capital group, which when added to Humberside's shares in Teesside will give Powell Duffryn a 95 per cent interest. The outstanding 5 per cent, held by Teesside's employees, will be the subject of a separate offer worth £18.17 per share.

Mr Holloway will enter a service contract with Powell Duffryn for a three-year period and has undertaken to hold shares representing £1 million of the consideration for the same amount of time. The balance of the shares issued to the vendors of Humberside will be retained for a minimum period of six months.

In the year to March 31, Teesside earned pre-tax profits of £13.6 million and Humberside earned £6.7 million.

Pre-tax profits at Powell Duffryn, which also has interests in engineering and fuels, were £17 million at the interim stage, which included an exceptional credit of £2.2 million. In the first half of the previous year, profits of £10.3 million were hit by an exceptional charge of £7.3 million against discontinued businesses.

Earnings rose to 17.8p a share from 8.2p and the interim dividend is increased to 8p a share from 6.6p, payable on January 11.



Christopher Pope, left, and Jeremy Pope, managing director, of Eldridge, Pope

## Eldridge, Pope lifts profit 50%

ELDRIDGE, Pope & Co, the Dorchester brewer and licensed retailer best known for its Thomas Hardy Country Bitter and Royal Oak brands, defied a difficult market to increase pre-tax profits by 50 per cent, to £2.64 million, in the year to September 30, from £1.76 million in the

previous year (Martin Barrow writes).

Christopher Pope, chairman, said: "We are demonstrating that the managed pub is the place to be, and also that brewers of heritage ales can succeed on food manufacturers' margins."

He said: "We have made

further solid progress on all fronts and established an upwards trend. We will be acquiring more good pubs in Wessex."

The company proposes a final dividend of 2.6p (2.15p), making 4.1p (3.55p), payable on February 3. Earnings per share rose to 11.6p (8.6p).

## Ransomes back in the black

Ransomes, the lawnmower maker, is back in profit after three years in the red.

The company, which has changed its year end from December 31 to September 30, made pre-tax profits of £6.1 million in the first nine months of 1994, (£8.9 million loss in the previous 12 months).

Earnings per share of 1p compared with losses of 25.9p, but the dividend is passed for the fourth year running. Sales in the nine months totalled £131.6 million, compared with £165.8 million in the whole of 1993.

Although the domestic market remains flat, sales to commercial customers, such as golf courses and local councils, had improved.

## Real Time up

Real Time Control, the maker of time control products, saw pre-tax profits rise to £1.05 million, from £420,000, in the half year to September 30. Earnings per share rose to 12p (4.1p). The company does not pay an interim dividend. Turnover increased to £8.49 million, from £3.58 million. The company said that the second-half performance was unlikely to match that of the first half, but good progress was expected. The shares rose 16p to 179p.

## Carpet jobs go

Lamont Holdings, the textiles group, in a £3 million restructuring, is to shed 152 jobs at Shaw Carpets in Darton, Barnsley, reducing the workforce to 184 from December 12. This follows a decision to reduce significantly the exposure to low-margin printed carpet products. The reduction in employee numbers, and the agreement of the workforce to changed working practices, will result in a more flexible operation capable of responding quickly to market needs, the company said.

## Creighton slips

Creighton's Naturally, the manufacturer of toiletries, saw pre-tax profits ease to £773,000 in the half year to September 30, from £819,000 previously, after a disappointing performance in North America. The interim dividend is held at 2.2p, due on February 10, from earnings per share of 11p (11.6p).

## Names to negotiate settlements

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 1,200 out of the 14,000 names who owe Lloyd's of London nearly £1 billion in unpaid losses are to start negotiating individual settlements in the new year. Any successful deal will enable the name to exit the market entirely.

The names have agreed to talk to Dibb Lupton Broomhead, the law firm in charge of Lloyd's debt collection.

Paul Rhodes, the firm's managing partner, said: "We are taking a commercial approach to collecting the money. If a name owes £500,000 but only has assets of £250,000, then we have to let common sense prevail if we want to make a deal."

In other words, names may be able to strike a deal to pay less than they owe. In

reaching a deal, names will have to disclose their financial position to the law firm. However, Mr Rhodes said that steps had been taken to alleviate names' concerns that detailed information disclosed may be used against them by Lloyd's later. The firm has agreed that if no deal is made, all the information is returned to the name without it being passed on to Lloyd's. Furthermore, a name can send an adviser in his place to negotiate a deal on an anonymous basis. Only after a deal has been made need the name's identity be revealed.

Mr Rhodes said that non-payers include "some names who can't pay their losses and some names who won't pay

their losses because they owe more than they have got."

In reaching a deal, the law firm will take into consideration any further expected losses and any litigation or stop-loss proceeds. Mr Rhodes said that the aim was to collect either cash or a legal right over assets. A charge on a house or an agreement to pay over time will suffice.

The negotiated deal approach differs from the hardship scheme, which it replaced. Dibb Lupton Broomhead's scheme may be attractive to many names, whereas the hardship plan was said to appeal only to the limited category of retired names, often in ill health and with no income outside Lloyd's.

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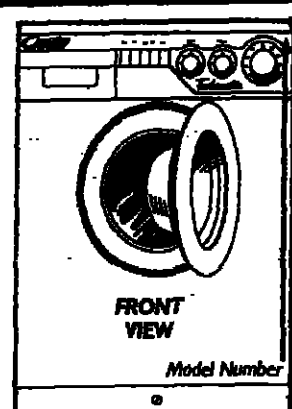
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## Caffyns slips into reverse

CAFFYNS, the motor dealer based in Sussex, is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 5p a share after pre-tax profits slipped to £336,000 from £630,000 in the half-year to September 30.

The company said the new car market in southern England remained difficult, with pressure on margins. Although turnover rose to £81.4 million from £74.7 million, operating profits fell to £822,000 from £1.14 million previously. Interest charges eased slightly to £486,000 from £513,000.

Earnings fell to 7.2p a share from 15.8p. On the stock market, the shares fell 5p to 265p. Herring Baker Harris, the property surveyor, has been asked to produce a revaluation of freehold sites for incorporation in accounts for the year to the end of March 1995.

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FROM

ROBERT FLEMING

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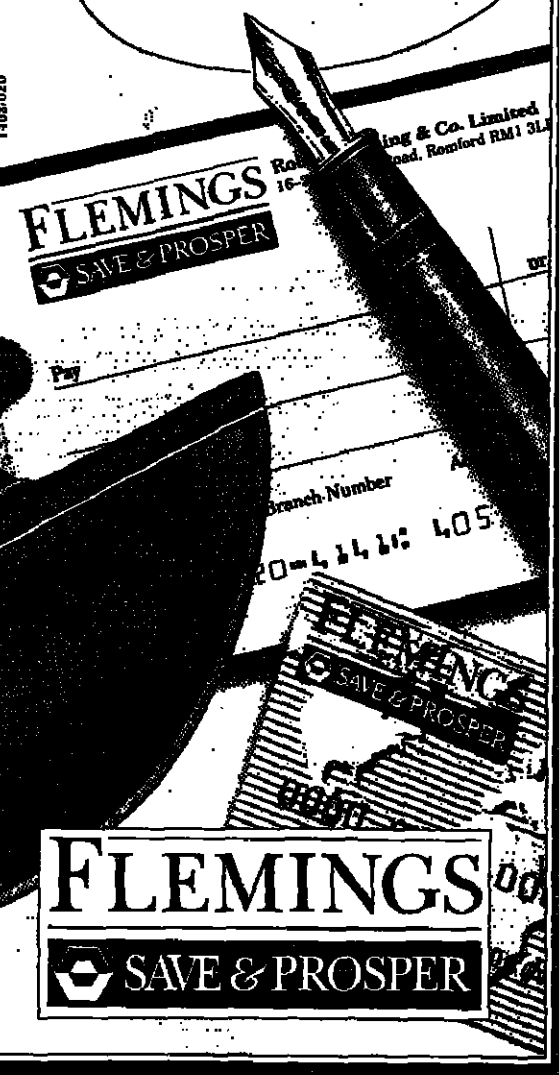
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Superb opportunity to enter the high flying world of finance within this top ranking WE-based Investment Bank. We need a switched-on, numerate and hard working individual with fluency in a European Language (English Mother-tongue essential) to support a top Director. Constant telephone liaison, organisation of diaries, travel and meetings will be a major part of your day as well as helping coordinate ad hoc marketing projects. A solid career history, fast typing, 'A' levels and an ability to work long hours essential. Age 25-35. Please call Kate Martin on 071 487 6832 or fax your CV in confidence on 071 494 0607.

**HOBSTONES**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Publishing Panache! £12,000 + excellent benefits

Energy, vitality, a genuine interest in books and good skills are the key requirements for these great opportunities to join a major publishing house. Beautiful offices and an appreciative boss together with the chance to get involved in the creative process of these roles. Our client will love your sound CV (1 year's secretarial experience), 10 wpm shorthand and 50 wpm typing. A level preferred, age 20-25, for more information please call Christine Chapman on 071 487 6832.

**HOBSTONES**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## "Mirror Group"

Senior Executive PA to General Manager Salary £Neg

Mirror Group is a vibrant and expanding business which has overcome a legacy of testing difficulties to emerge as a strong, high-profile media force rapidly moving towards new opportunities, most recently into the television broadcasting market. We are now based at spectacular new offices at the Tower in Canary Wharf.

An opportunity has arisen for an experienced PA to work for the General Manager providing full secretarial and administrative support using your shorthand, word processing and spreadsheet skills. Your strong interpersonal skills, confidentiality and tact are a requisite for this position.

This opportunity requires a flexible approach to hours, ability to work under pressure and enthusiasm for taking the initiative in supporting the General Manager in all his responsibilities.

## Shorthand Secretaries

Mirror Group are also looking to recruit two shorthand secretaries to undertake the varied and demanding roles of First Secretary.

Working at all levels of the company, the position requires someone with initiative and the ability to adapt quickly and efficiently to new environments. As well as your impeccable shorthand you should have excellent word processing (preferably word for windows), good communication and administration skills and be able to work under pressure.

The company offers a competitive salary and good career prospects.

If you are seeking a fresh challenge and would like to work for a major national newspaper group, please write with full CV including details of shorthand, word processing and current salary to Charlotte Thornton, Human Resources Department, Mirror Group, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5AP.

## PROPERTY CO - W1 AUDIO SEC - £18,000 ++

A Director & 2 Managers of this leading property company require someone with excellent typing skills & the ability to organise their diaries, meetings & company functions. Must have polished presentation, be aged 24-30 and preferably have experience of Word for Windows.

Call Rachel on 071 636 1403.

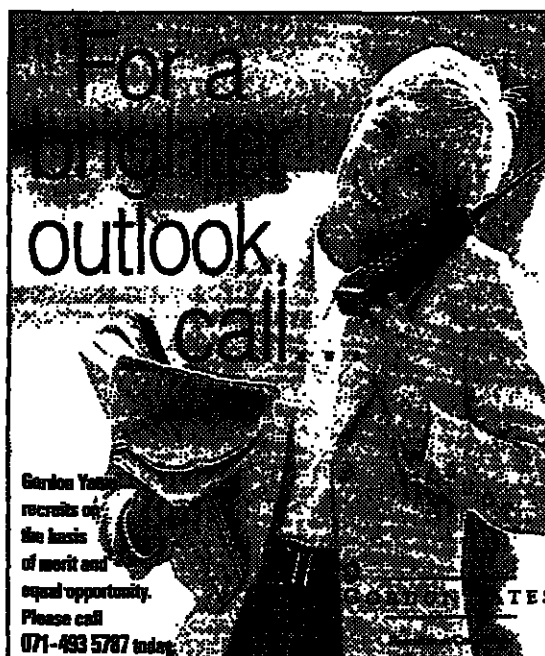
**BEAVERS**  
Personnel Recruitment Consultants

## CULINARY TALENTS

up to £20,000 + Pens +  
STL + Flexible Hours

One of the UK's biggest catering groups needs a strong minded, mature administrator (30+). Your job is looking after a team running several major catering names in the industry. Office management, company policies, incentive schemes, health and safety are your priorities. You'll need typing (50+) for correspondence & people management skills to look after other admin support. If you are hardworking, meticulous and admin is your greatest strength, please call.

18-21 Jersey Street, London SW1Y 6HP  
Telephone 071 734 7341



A step above the rest... up to £21K  
Our client, a leading Investment Management organisation is seeking a 'one in a million' secretary/technical administrator to work in a pressurised and team oriented environment. Successful candidates will enjoy working to deadlines and without supervision and will have extensive Ampro and finance experience. Fantastic opportunity for a hardworking, intelligent secretary with excellent skills (typing 60wpm), A-Level/Graduate education preferred.

Think personnel! £17K + benefits  
Does the sound of a demanding and involving personal role within a fast and interesting environment catch your attention? Are you a bright, hardworking secretary with excellent skills (typing 70wpm) looking for a challenge? One of our most prestigious clients based in the West End is looking for someone who will enjoy a full secretarial role and who likes to become involved. If you enjoy working in a committed, team-oriented environment, call now!

Style, elegance & speed... £15K  
One of the most prestigious motor dealerships in London is seeking a sophisticated, charming receptionist/administrator, with a mature outlook, to work within their brand new showroom. Ideal opportunity for a confident person who can liaise at all levels, deal with difficulties and cope with the day to day environment of a service industry. Keyboard skills and computer literacy required.

## THE ROYAL FINE ART COMMISSION

Personal Secretary

The Royal Fine Art Commission, an independent government-funded organisation, wishes to appoint a Personal Secretary to its Secretary. The appointee will also provide secretarial support for the Deputy Secretary and assist with other tasks as required for the Commission.

Applicants should be experienced, computer literate secretaries, familiar with Wordperfect 5.1, with good typing, and shorthand/audio skills.

Salary range from £12,937 to £15,880. Starting salary will depend on experience and progress through the range is related to performance. 22 days holiday. Pension scheme.

Apply for application form to:

The Secretary, Royal Fine Art Commission, 7 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4JU.

Telephone: 071 839 6537  
Closing date for applications: 15th January 1995.

## SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

Centre for International Education in Economics (CIEE)

£13/K - £15/K p.a. inc.

We need a highly organised secretary with an interest in international higher education to join our team which supports distance learning programmes in Economics. CIEE has successful cohorts in the Far East and Africa and over 200 independent students world-wide. You should enjoy working as a team member, have good attention to detail and be able to work under pressure. The successful applicant must have expertise in word-processing (preferably Apple Mac) and be willing to handle spreadsheets and databases to ensure the smooth running of secretarial activities in this expanding and innovative Centre. SOAS has a friendly working environment and the University of London offers good sports and social facilities.

Application forms and job descriptions may be obtained from the Personnel Office, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG (tel: 071-323 8189 between 10.30am and 2.00pm). No CVs or agencies.

Closing date: Friday 16th December  
Interviews: Wednesday 21st December  
SOAS is an equal opportunities employer

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY — LUXURY GIFT HOUSE

The buying department of a well established perfume house are looking for an ambitious, flexible self-starter to join their Operations Team. The position offers great opportunity to the right candidate to learn all round skills. Variety is guaranteed, huge pressure and constant deadlines are all part of this busy role including liaison with international suppliers. Are you flexible, full of energy and ready for a big career move?

If so, please call Raisa now on 081 809 7799  
Skills: O'levels essential combined with excellent communication ability, computer literacy and typing at 60wpm.  
Sal Neg £13,000+

CLAIRE MEYER ASSOCIATES

CLAIRE MEYER ASSOCIATES & CITY PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS are delighted to announce that they are formally joining forces. We shall all be based at 96 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8AL. Tel: 071 430 9021 Fax: 071 430 0786, and trading as C.P.C.

**C.P.C.**  
CITY PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS

## The Perfect Receptionist...

£17,500 + bens

...enjoys talking to people and wants to convey the best possible impression to the outside world. Our client, a recognised leader in the consultancy field, needs just such a frontliner for their Marylebone-based HQ. Immediate availability, keyboard skills to operate a screen-based console and some switchboard experience a must. Preferred age range 25-35. Please contact Lindsey Brandon on 071 494 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## 1ST JOB?

Start 1995

Four of our well known, prestigious companies require newly qualified secretaries to join them. Good educational background, sound secretarial skills combined with an enthusiastic team-spirited approach necessary. Salaries range up to £13,000. Call Camille London now and MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS COME TRUE!  
Tel: 071 494 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Events Coordinator to £22,000 plus benefits

City establishment with historical high-profile needs an accomplished administrator to take on the role of Events Coordinator. Working in a team you will manage and plan events, communicating the programme to clients and colleagues. Events will vary in size and importance so essential requirements are a strong administrative background and experience of organising large scale events, accompanied by first class interpersonal skills. Age: 35-50 (no younger), keyboard and WP knowledge necessary. For further information please call Claire Ashley on 071 377 8827.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Graduate PA £19,000 & Big Bens

City based Investment Bank requires a Graduate PA with a flair for figures to support the Chief Investment Officer and his assistant. In addition to providing full PA backup, you will liaise with statistical analysts and work on your own administrative projects. Ideally with some experience in the financial sector, you must have demonstrated your numerate ability in previous positions. You should be dynamic, a self starter and you must enjoy working on your own initiative. Skills: 80 sh/60 typing/WP knowledge. Age: 28-40. sh/60 typing/WP knowledge. Age: 28-40. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 071 377 8827 for more information.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Recruitment

- to £20,000

An extremely successful west end firm needs an excellent administrator to help run their small, but very busy office. This is a challenging and extremely rewarding position requiring a high degree of accuracy and commitment. A flexible attitude is essential to provide support in a variety of areas. Team spirit with a methodical approach, you must have previous secretarial/administrative experience in a recruitment consultancy. If you have a good education, solid CV, sound secretarial skills (60 typ) and age 22-30 please call Sonia Yusuf on 071 434 4512. Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## PA TO CHAIRMAN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT COMPANY

££30K WEST END

The company is new successful small high powered, developing major international projects with focus in South Asia.

## The job involves:

- Producing major written presentations and documents using full word processing skills under very tight deadlines.
- Highly efficient PA support and management of complex diary, travel plans, work progress chasing across time zones during boss' frequent international travels.
- Office administration tasks for a small business.

## The candidate should:

- have A levels, top secretarial skills including shorthand/typing 100/70 wpm, advanced word for windows 6, numeracy and full computer knowledge.
- have senior experience in high pressure major financial institution, and transferable to small businesses.
- be highly organised, unfappable under sustained pressure with personal flexibility to respond to unpredictable work flow.
- be resourceful, dedicated, self-reliant and able to work on a self-contained basis and deal with different nationalities on the telephone.
- Preferred age 30-35.

Send confidential fax with full CV to  
071 242 1235

## MONEY BROKERS

£19,000

Running your own desk as secretary to the Director of Finance with this international company will involve you in highly confidential Board matters. You will be privy to company accounts and your flair for organisation, anticipation and initiative will be given full reign. Skills: 90/60. Age: 28-45. Please telephone 071 628 9529.

**Elizabeth Hunt**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## SENIOR MARKETING ASSISTANT

An international crane-lift is now planning to substantially develop its sales activity in Germany, and needs a capable and highly-motivated individual to assist in this development.

The ideal candidate will have German as mother tongue and some experience of the travel or crane industries. Based in London, the role will require frequent travel to Germany, Switzerland and Austria particularly in the early market development.

An attractive package for the right person.

Applicants should write in the first instance with full CV to: Valerie James, Orient Lines (Europe) Ltd, 38 Park Street, London W1Y 5PF.

**A Select Venture**  
££23,000

Do you possess high energy levels, initiative and an entrepreneurial spirit? These are qualities sought by the Chief Executive of a well established investment company in W1. They are a small team of talented individuals - high achievers in prestigious, international companies who now wish to work for an organisation which is smaller, more personal and fun. You will be contributing expertise in the secretarial, administrative and (very basic) bookkeeping areas. Excellent secretarial skills, a sound professional CV in the financial sector and a 'small office mentality' essential. Age: 28-40. If this opportunity appeals to you please call Sophie Allen - in confidence - 071 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## CALLING ALL INSURANCE SECRETARIES

CITY BASED

£18,000 - £20,000

New Year, New Horizons. Now is just the right time to join this major force in the financial world. What can they offer you? Sociable hours (now you can have a life after work), friendly environment and lots of client contact. If you have previous City/insurance experience, are looking for either an involved team secretarial or PA role, have 60 wpm typing, and ideally have DTP and Excel skills, why put up with second best!

Please call us now on 071-734 8484

**PAN EUROPEAN**  
RECRUITMENT

## FULHAM SECRETARY

needed by Residential/Commercial Estate Agency, experienced team. Salary £15,000 pa.

Apply: Jonathan Cowan

Cowan & Rutter,

351 Fulham Palace Road,

London SW6 6TB.

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Required by Senior Partner of small, friendly firm of Chartered Solicitors. Interesting and varied work. Legal experience not necessary but good secretarial skills and pleasant telephone manner essential. Salary dependent on age and experience.

Please call 071 351 9468

or write to Box No. 2395

for further details and interview.

**CAROL MOYES**

## CHELSEA HARBOUR

c. £20,000

Friendly/highly respected M.D. of expanding & very successful on W1 an ext. flexible PA/office mgr. Chest liaison, office admin + PA duties. Busy 9/10 fast typ. Exp of marketing/sales companies. Ideal for Fulham dweller or car driver. Age: 28-40 yrs. 071 222 5051.

Norah Skemp Rec

## PA £25,000

Good natured, well spoken, well organized with total integrity. PA Sec for a very small luxury firm. Home based. Excellent salary. 'A' level standard. 110/80 skills. Age 24-32. Must be numerate.

Please see me at my office 071 404 3111

No agencies please.

## £12 to £14k

Receptionist/ Junior Secretary

CHELSEA, SW3

To work for an exclusive Chelsea based company. Looking for a bright enthusiastic, team orientated individual. German an advantage. You will need knowledge of Microsoft: Windows and word and 50 wpm. Accuracy & previous experience necessary. You must have a pleasant telephone manner and be well presented.

Call 071 393 90 22

هكذا من الأصل



Beryl Dixon on an association raising professional standards

# Afraid of seeming pushy at work?

**B**ankers do it: accountants do it. So do engineers and lawyers. Why shouldn't secretaries? Join a professional association, that is. Many people give as their main reason for doing so the opportunity to take part in training and continuing professional development, and the chance to network.

Both these activities were well in evidence at the annual conference of the Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries (IQPS) hosted by their West Midlands branch in October. The IQPS was founded in 1957 by the first group of students to pass the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) private secretaries diploma course.

Networking can be particularly important for secretaries unable to share tips or air problems with anyone at a similar level of responsibility in their own organisations. "I would have come even if there had not been the workshops," says one delegate. "I simply want to meet people and establish links."

The two workshops were successful and demanded a high degree of participation. Sian Matthews from the Domino Consultancy led one on career progression. Through a question and answer technique she

covered some of the mental blocks which prevent success: "Me? I couldn't possibly." "If I just work efficiently and competently, someone will notice and recommend me for promotion." "I don't want to seem pushy", for example. Ms Matthews made the participants

**"I came to the workshops to meet people and establish links"**

draw up an audit of their own strengths, and finished by presenting a list of 20 tips for the successful woman.

Lorna Sheldon of Pace Consultants made delegates work even harder. After talking about image — "What you wear says a lot about you and your company" — she moved on to body language and voice. First, delegates learnt how to make eye contact and give firm handshakes, then the room echoed to the sounds of people learning to recognise their own voice band and

trying to achieve a relatively low pitch. "A high pitch has no power."

The IQPS has several aims: to encourage, to facilitate training; to raise professional standards and to offer guidance and advice.

Catering for over 3,000 members, the Institute has 14 regional branches. All are run by volunteer committees, as is the national council, and all endeavour to put on a mix of professional and other activities. The Scottish branch has had speakers on Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), sick pay and maternity legislation, and is planning to visit a whisky distillery.

The Wessex programme includes an IT event, a workshop on language and cultural differences, and a tour of the regional airport's facilities. In the East Midlands they have recently had a members' networking evening and a talk on safety awareness.

On the social side, says central London branch secretary Trina Hill, they have had a make-up demonstration and will be organising a Christmas theatre visit. Planned New Year activities include a talk on "The Secretary — An Essential Team Member" and a presentation by ICL.



Serving on her committee has brought Trina Hill unexpected benefits: "I have learnt to give presentations and to speak in public"

Serving on her local committee has brought Mrs Hill unexpected benefits: "I have acquired managerial experience and have learnt how to handle a budget and to organise meetings. I have also learnt to give presentations and to speak in public, skills which I feel look good on any secretary's CV."

Should you wish to join the IQPS (membership costs £25 per year), you must have certain minimum

skills and experience. To become an affiliate you would need to prove five years' experience at a senior level and provide details of examinations passed.

An associate must have either: the LCCI Private Secretary's Certificate, the LCCI Second Certificate for Legal Secretaries, a SCOTVEV HNC in Office Administration with advanced secretarial skills, NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Administra-

tion, as well as two years' experience, or a cluster of single-subject examinations plus appropriate experience.

Membership level requires: the LCCI Private and Executive Secretary's Diploma, the RSA Higher Certificate in Administrative and Secretarial Procedures or one of a SCOTVEV HND in Information and Office Management, BTEC Higher Award in Business and

Finance or Business Studies degree, provided that these contain secretarial skills at an advanced level.

For more information, contact Mrs Nancy Harris, IQPS General Manager, 68 Longmoor Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4PF. The IQPS is collaborating with The Times and the Industrial Society in running *Care 95*, the Executive Secretary Show at Olympia in June next year.

## LA CREME DE LA CREME




### ROOM AT THE TOP

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC £20K + PRP

A rare opportunity has arisen for an experienced young secretary to join an elite team working for the Chairman of a major music group. Working for a well known and high profile businessman, you will have a fascinating insight into the workings of the music business at the top end. This is an excellent stepping stone for a talented college leaver or a secretary with 1 year's experience to bring their

interpersonal skills to the fast track environment of a Chairmans team. There is also potential for promotion to one of their music subsidiaries in 2 years time. Age 20-30, skills: 100/60. Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed. Please call 071 726 8491



### LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Department of Government

#### Secretary

(Ref Govt/Sec/DK)

£13,715 - £15,553 (inc) per annum

The Department of Government is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and capable person to fill a recently upgraded secretarial/clerical post. You will have excellent typing and shorthand skills, be familiar with databases, enjoy dealing with students, staff and the media, be able to work under pressure without supervision and have the ability to adapt to new technologies. You will work with other administrative and secretarial staff in a friendly office located in the King's Chambers.

For further details and an application form please send a large self-addressed envelope to: D.K., The Staffing Office, Room H514, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.

Closing date for applications: 9 January 1995.

THE LSE IS COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

### AMBITIOUS PERSONAL SECRETARY - £17,000

#### TO DEMANDING CHIEF IN WHITE-WATER TERRITORY (LONDON N1)

Computer-fluency (Microsoft Word, Access, Excel and E-Mail) and discretion, with impeccable secretarial and communication skills are imperative for this position which also demands the ability to handle autonomy and tight schedules without losing one's head, cool or sense of humour. You'll be in the thick of high-level decision-making - sitting pretty to target a secure career in the Group Audit and Compliance function of a "Big Name" Finance Organisation.

If you've got it, go for it. Contact us soonest -

Janise Elton  
BUSINESS RESOURCES  
29 Copperkings Lane, Amersham, HP6 5QF  
Tel 0494 727717 Fax 0494 724230

### PERSONNEL OFFICER ADVERTISING

£17,000

Here it is - your next move in Personnel. Superb opportunity for a self-motivated Personnel Administrator/Sec. 25+ with good payroll and employment legislation experience to join fast moving advertising Co. Responsibilities include recruitment to director level, payroll and employee benefits administration, disciplinary admin. etc. Flexibility, a professional manner and confident attitude essential.

For your CV or call Sandy now.

TEL: 071 491 7252 FAX: 071 491 2887  
Rainbow House, 12 South Molton Street  
London W1Y 1DF

### PA/ SECRETARY/ PRESS OFFICER

£17,500 + Perks

Have you an interest in living with the press and broadcasting media? Superb role has arisen for a confident, discreet PA with good audio skills to co-ordinate press conferences, photocalls, handle press releases and deal tactfully with busy journalists etc. Security interesting! Some previous experience in this field would be advantageous. A dedicated and committed attitude will be rewarded by working in one of London's top jobs!

For your CV or call Elaine now.

TEL: 071 491 7252 FAX: 071 491 2887  
Rainbow House, 12 South Molton Street  
London W1Y 1DF

### PA/ OFFICE MANAGER PUBLIC RELATIONS

£20,000 + BUPA

This exciting post calls for a computer literate professional PA 27+ with AI organising and secretarial skills. You will assist 2 dynamic MD and ensure smooth running of office plus oversee small production team in this well established PR Co. Applicant knowledge, a flair for layout and a good personality essential.

For your CV or call Sandy now.

TEL: 071 491 7252 FAX: 071 491 2887  
Rainbow House, 12 South Molton Street  
London W1Y 1DF

### Unusual Challenge

£20K Package

At last a genuine opportunity to progress your secretarial career surrounded by the excitement of a hectic investment banking environment. Your flair for organisation, self-motivation and enthusiasm will help you manage your team of 7 dynamic bosses. A varied workload combining traditional secretarial duties with extensive client liaison, research and project work make this a high profile, demanding and responsible role ideal for those seeking a challenge and real involvement.

If you have excellent skills, preferably 1 year's experience, a professional and committed attitude to your work, please contact us regarding the above position and other vacancies. Skills 50wpm.

0171 726 8491

Angela Mortimer

### SECRETARY/PA

£18,000 + private health, ideally 30+

Based in the West End office of a successful property development company, you will be working closely with the Managing Director. It is essential you are able to work on your own, under minimum supervision, and generally prefer your own company.

The work is varied and will involve duties from general management of the office to providing excellent secretarial support to the Managing Director. This is a real opportunity to develop your own role to include financial administration and marketing.

Please write with CV, or telephone Annie Loney, Vanbrugh Lane, Suite 4, 44 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DH. Tel 071 224 4282.

### Outstanding Gordon Bleu Cooks

required for Directors Chateau in Meribel

Stationed on the edge of the piste running into the heart of Meribel, our fabulous Directors Chateau requires two experienced Gordon Bleu cooks of the highest standard to heat and entertain up to sixteen people. Applicants should be hard working and enthusiastic, should have proven cooking experience and a flair for creative menu planning.

Benefits include full board, travel expenses, ski pass, ski hire and excellent wages.

For further details please call Elaine or Lisa  
071 393 3178

### LONDON GYNAECOLOGY & FERTILITY CENTRE

#### MEDICAL SECRETARY

Salary Range £17,000 - £20,000 p.a.

Mature secretary required for a busy gynaecological practice. The successful candidate must be well spoken, have a confident phone manner & be able to deal tactfully & discreetly with patients. S/N & good WPMs are essential.

Please send CV with 2 references to: Mr L. Ashford  
THE LONDON GYNAECOLOGY & FERTILITY CENTRE  
Covene House, 112A Harley Street, London W1N 1AF  
Tel: 071 224 0707 Fax: 071 224 3102

Closing date for applications Friday 16 December 1994  
Shortlisted candidates will be notified in writing

### Bilinguasec

**GEM OF A JOB** £25,000  
Unlike your typical Sec. job, this is a real challenge. You will be working for a leading international company in the City of London. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**SATELLITE RADIO** £22,000  
Job with a difference. Selling German Office Machines. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**MAKE YOUR MARK** £23K p/yr  
Unlike your typical Sec. job, this is a real challenge. You will be working for a leading international company in the City of London. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**PERSONALITY PLUS!** £22,000  
Love a change? New position. Unlike your typical Sec. job, this is a real challenge. You will be working for a leading international company in the City of London. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**BANKING BONANZA** £20,000 + bonus  
To Top PA. Please telephone Mr. Ashford for details. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**SALES COORDINATOR** £18,500  
Any experienced Sec. with a flair for sales and a good knowledge of the insurance industry. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**WORLD OF T.V.** £17,000  
Work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**PUBLISHING** £15,000  
Join a leading publishing house. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services. You will be working closely with the Managing Director and the other members of the senior management team.

**TELECOMS - SOS...** Top rates paid from start for Euro Secs...  
TEL: 071 491 6446 FAX: 071 493 0168

### PA TO CHAIRMAN - £25,000

A high-calibre professional PA is required by the dynamic Chairman of this very successful group of companies.

The Group operates between the United States and the UK and the Chairman is responsible for the development of a wide range of business activities. He needs first-class administrative back-up from a pro-active PA with excellent technical skills and the ability to plan ahead. Age 28-38.

### DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

071 629 9323

### TELEVISION

£20,000

Marketing/Sales Director of high profile TV Co in W.I. urgently needs a tough, quick-acting, super-efficient PA for this exciting, go-ahead company which rewards hard-work and total involvement. We need industry experience, willingness to travel occasionally, 50 w/e & fast WP. Age 24+

### JIGSAW

RECRUITMENT

### PA/ MARKETING

MD of a busy language school needs a first class PA with particular strengths in marketing - literature, management & technical aspects. Attractive salary. Apply to: Timothy Blake, The London School of English, 15 Holland Park Gate, W14 8DZ. Tel: 071 603 5021.

### MARKETING PA

£18,800 + £3,000 Bonus

Working for two charming Managers in the prestigious Hampstead St. Co. Supporting presentation documents, travel literature etc. you will be experienced on PowerPoint Graphics & deal with daily S/N & 50 wpm.

If you enjoy a role that offers advancement & variety call or fax today.

Times Recruitment Group  
Tel: 071 831 8936  
Fax: 071 430 8111

### RECEPTIONISTS

£16,500 p.a.

Large int co req exp recep's with 40wpm typ and a good tel manner. Must be willing to do shift work (Mon-Fri). Exc bonus.

Call Wendy Prangnell on 071 240 4258.

**La Creme**  
LA CREME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### Successful PR Company in SW London Seeks

#### Personal Assistant to Associate Director

£17,000 pa + bonuses + BUPA

Are you a professional PA with plenty of initiative, energy and enthusiasm? We're expanding fast so come and join our hard working and happy company based in beautiful studio offices working on exciting beauty, food and consumer products. No 9/5 but superb secretarial, communications and w/p skills essential. Position available 3 January.

Please send detailed CV to Box No 2507, c/o The Times, PO Box 3553, Virginia St, London E1

### FLUENT FRENCH

£20,000

As PA/administrator to the Human Resources Director of this famous French cosmetics company, you'll use your French daily. Full 1:1 role including administering company benefits. Previous translation experience essential. Shorthand, WP and senior level experience needed. Age 25-38 years. Please telephone 071 499 8070.

Elizabeth Hunt  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### The Language Business

#### RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

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**MUSIC page 38**

Pan-handling with pride: the steel band prepares to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary

# ARTS

**THEATRE page 39**

Nigel Hawthorne makes his West End debut as director of *The Clandestine Marriage*



## 'Welcome inside my mind'

Edinburgh may soon have a gallery devoted to the work of sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi. Magnus Linklater reports

The Dean Centre in Edinburgh stands facing south on a small eminence across the road from the Gallery of Modern Art — one of those extraordinary public buildings which the 19th-century city fathers erected for their less fortunate fellows. Originally built as an orphanage, it was designed with extravagance by Thomas Hamilton and topped off with two stupendous baroque towers. Inside, huge rooms, lit by the midday winter sun, stand empty. It has not been occupied since Lothian Regional Council abandoned it as a teacher training college, and ever since it has been eyed as potential gallery space.

Originally it was the favoured site for the controversial Gallery of Scottish Art, now planned for Glasgow. Instead, another idea has been proposed. It involves one of the towering figures of modern sculpture, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, and it has sent frissons of excitement through the art world. Paolozzi is a son of Edinburgh, or more precisely a son of Leith, where he was born 70 years ago to Italian parents who were in the ice-cream business. They were interned during the war, and Paolozzi's father died in the *Arandora Star* disaster when the ship taking him, several uncles and many other Italians from Scotland, was torpedoed on its way to Canada. Paolozzi himself spent time in Saughton Prison at the age of 16, though he remains philosophical about the experience, and insists that his Edinburgh childhood was happy.

As he moves into his eighth decade (he was 70 last March), he

has grown closer to his Scottish roots. He travels to Edinburgh a great deal, and he has thrived on the keen interest shown in his work by Scotland's National Galleries, and by the patronage of some enlightened Scots. Last year a massive Paolozzi sculpture, *The Wealth of Nations*, commissioned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, was unveiled by the Queen outside the bank's new headquarters on the west side of the city. Ever since, the man responsible for that commission, the banker Angus Grossart, has been talking to Paolozzi about something even more ambitious.

The idea of making the Dean Centre a Paolozzi Gallery, a place in which to view the whole development of the man and his work, came about partly through Grossart's

**Edinburgh will show how apparent chaos is turned into creativity**

enthusiasm, partly through a remarkable decision by Eric Milligan, convener of Lothian Region, to offer the Dean Centre at no cost to the National Galleries of Scotland, and partly through Richard Calvocoressi, director of the Gallery of Modern Art, across the road from the Dean, which already has one of the finest Paolozzi collections in the world. Now the final decision is in the hands of Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, who has to see whether the sums make sense.

What he will be considering is more than just an ordinary gallery. It has one extra ingredient which makes it unique. Paolozzi has proposed that the gallery should house not just his work but his own studio, the well-spring of his art and his ideas. It might even, at times, accommodate the sculptor



Sir Eduardo Paolozzi in his studio. "This is my life," he comments, gesturing round a room stacked from floor to ceiling with objects he has collected over the years

himself, making it a living museum and workshop all in one.

To visit Paolozzi's studios in Dovehouse Street in Chelsea is to understand something of the significance of his decision. "This is my life," he comments as he gestures round a room stacked from floor to ceiling with the objects he has collected over the years. He is an obsessive hoarder ("I have several books on the psycho-pathology of collecting"). Here is the key to his massive sculptures as well as the rich diversity of his drawings, prints, collages and designs.

There are three studios in all, but the first, in which he also sleeps, is the most important. He calls it a "cabinet de curiosités", though in truth it is more like a lumber-room. There are books, scrapbooks, scrolls, sketches, movie posters,

plastic toys, model kits, tools, souvenirs, little wooden boxes, half-finished sculptures of tin or plaster or wood, ideas begun, developed, completed or abandoned. Work in progress is central to his art.

"It may seem chaotic," he admits, as he manoeuvres round the cramped space, "but everything that is here is here for a reason. It's reference and counter-reference." He points to a model from the movie *Metropolis*. "That means there is a dialogue between my sculpture and the movies. That was made in the year I was born, 1924. Universal symbols never date. Maybe that's why I like Shakespeare so much."

"What you see here are things I have made, like that tin man, or things I have bought that will be reborn. Much of this has been

closed until now. It's going to be unclosed thanks to Edinburgh."

He envisages coming up to visit his transposed studio, doing workshops in it, talking about his art, perhaps even creating new work in the ambience of the gallery. Neither he nor Calvocoressi can think of another "live" studio of this kind exhibited anywhere in the world. The nearest equivalent, the Brancusi studio in Paris, was dismantled years ago. Perhaps only Henry Moore's studios at Much Hadham bear comparison.

"The lay public have very little chance to get inside the mind of the artist," he says. "They don't know how things are made. It's a mystery. But Edinburgh will have the opportunity and the materials to unbend it. It's like a film that begins as utterly unexplainable,

but as the play unfolds, that unbelievable thing is revealed."

Modernism, he says, is not about starting with a blank canvas on an easel, but about assembling a whole series of ideas from mundane objects. His heroes are artists like Rauschenberg and Kurt Schwitters. He loves the story of how Schwitters, interned on the Isle of Man during the war, arrived in the camp with nothing, but left with three suitcases stuffed with discarded objects — sweet papers, wrappings, anything thrown away by other prisoners.

The next-door studio, borrowed from a friend, is used sparingly, but the third one is stacked with plaster models, maquettes, finished or uncompleted versions of sculptures. He calls this a "dead" studio, since it represents the past rather

than the future. But it too is scheduled for Edinburgh.

"There must be things here that appear very illogical. There's some heads with a big hat, and I've cut the rim right back. It's simply because it feels necessary. So much is illogical, but it will later make sense. Some kind of psychic processing is going on. It's full of memory discharges. It's out of the chaos that you get honed ideas."

An afternoon spent with Paolozzi is a rich experience, as cluttered with ideas, honed or rough-hewn, as his studio. There should be a corner of the new gallery devoted to the contents of his own head, because that, I suspect, is the real "cabinet de curiosités." Nevertheless, Edinburgh has been offered a remarkable gift. It must make the best possible use of it.

**CONCERTS: Ghosts and bacchanals in full colour; seductive sounds from a 19th-century piano; and a song recital touched with Irish magic**

Death was in residence at the Barbican on Sunday. He was raged against in Malcolm Arnold's Fifth Symphony, he danced the light fantastic in an extraordinary performance of Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody, and finally bowed out as *The Black Knight* in Elgar's early cantata.

Longfellow's version of Uhland's high-romantic ballad is some of the worst verse he ever wrote: just the stuff for mawkish into music. The very thing, too, with which to make one's name as a composer and, as the excellent London Symphony Chorus showed, to give the lungs and imaginations of any choral society robust exercise.

We tend to be embarrassed now by the music's storybook verisimilitude: the shameless orchestral pomp and circumstance at the opening Feast of Gladness ("when woods and fields put off all sadness"), the spearhead accent on the word

## Bold in the face of death

LSO/Hickox Barbican

"aghast", the solo violin which weeps with the "fear-struck father grey".

But the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus taught us not to be. This is just the sort of challenge Richard Hickox relishes, and every Burne-Jones colour glowed fearlessly from a score whose symphonic strength — to say nothing of ghostly waltz and deathly bacchanal — should not be underestimated. Never was there such a

demonic danse macabre as that trod out by Lars Vogt in Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. So often this is played as no more than virtuoso variations for piano: in Vogt's hands this was a drama of Mephistopheles in a hundred guises. Hard bright chords scorched the surface of the piano; a single distant note could freeze in the air like ice. Vogt is just 24; his high intelligence, physical daring and clarity of vision seem to gain in power with every performance.

The deaths of several musician friends inspired Malcolm Arnold's Fifth Symphony, and the 73-year-old composer was there on Sunday to take the loud and warm applause which has been denied him for so much of his earlier life.

Never has so much Arnold been performed and applauded as now: perhaps we are only just growing able to hear and understand properly that strangely ambivalent tone of voice which longs, perhaps, for the world of Elgar, while stoically inhabiting an unbrave new world.

The LSO gave the work a meticulously prepared, sharply focused performance, making the most of its Mahlerian slow movement, its angry, acerbic scherzo and its perverse, still enigmatic finale.

HILARY FINCH

Melvyn Tan does not play the kind of piano one normally expects to encounter in a hall of the Barbican's size. Predictably, the example he brought to his recital on Sunday afternoon, an instrument made by Johann Streicher in 1839, was far smaller in volume than a modern Steinway and far less unified in tone throughout the register.

Yet the ear quickly compensated for lack of volume, and we could understand that such absence of tonal homogeneity worked to the advantage of the music Tan played. There was, for instance, a silvery glitter at the top of the register, a sound familiar from Mozart's pianos, that lent flourishes in that region a gentle kind of brilliance. At a lower pitch the

## Small-scale brilliance

Melvyn Tan Barbican

instrument had a mellower quality that enabled lines to sing, though chords lack a certain ripeness, while the thin clarity of the bass elucidated harmonic foundations without overpowering what was going on above.

All these characteristics are worthless if the player has no real feel for the weight of touch and the sonic possibilities. Unlike some working in his field, Tan knows his instruments absolutely and plays them to their potential but

never beyond it. That is one reason why he has won so many converts.

If the outer movements of Schumann's G minor Sonata — a bold and challenging piece with which to open — were more storm-tossed texture than clearly enunciated line or theme, that is very much in the music's nature. In any case, Tan compensated with subsidiary ideas and a slow movement of almost too much tenderness, screwing up his face and contorting his body in that way of his that endears him to some but distracts others. But there was a palpable anxiety in his reading of the work, and he

seemed more at ease in Mendelssohn's Six Songs without Words, Op 67, reveling in the dashing, mercurial brilliance of the fourth and drawing pictures of wistful tenderness in the slower numbers.

But he really came into his own in music by Schubert. First there was the A major Sonata, D664 (incidentally

predating the piano by 20 years), whose feeling of gentle, relaxed lyricism positively glowed in his hands. And in the four Impromptus, D935, instrument and music seemed to extract the best from each other, while Tan, completely relaxed and at home with the music, enjoyed song and virtuoso flourish, simple statement and complex variation, in equal, beguiling measure.

STEPHEN PETTIT

## Melodies with fragrance

Ann Murray Wigmore Hall

It is quite some time since Dublin-born Ann Murray auditioned for her place at music college dressed all in green from top to toe, Hilary Finch writes; and Cherubino, Dorabella and Octavian tend to figure more largely in her life now than Rosie McRafferty and "Phil the Fluter's Ball". But a new depth of silence descended on the Wigmore Hall when the first notes sounded for "The Last

that are still largely underappreciated.

Murray's ease in the French language is celebrated, and Graham Johnson's obvious pleasure in accompanying her transformed what could have seemed many a pianistic cliché. In Bizet, though, art really does conceal art, and songs such as the "Sonnet" or "Rose d'amour" put performers on their mettle.

And that was exactly where Murray had begun her recital. Haydn's dramatic solo cantata, *Berenice, che fai?* began with a charge of energy as the tormented heroine begins her self-interrogation. It was a difficult act to follow, and there were moments when the tension generated by Murray and Johnson threatened to work against them.

For Brahms, though, voice and fingers were more at ease. "Wir Melodien" moved on light currents of air. "Der Gang zum Liebchen" became a mobile impromptu of a waltz, and "Meine Liebe ist grün" was a heady hymn to spring's own wearing of the green.

SERGEI CHEPIK

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**THEATRE: A great actor puts on his first play; what youngsters should see this season; and a zestful dose of eschatology**

# May the farce be with you

**Benedict Nightingale marvels at Nigel Hawthorne's acting — but feels his West End directing debut needs more direction**

On the evidence of this production, there are two Nigel Hawthornes. One is a subtle and confident actor, whose comic expertise I would recommend any young performer to study and, if he has the talent, to emulate. The other is an unsuitable and somewhat clumsy director. For him, I would politely suggest a course of tuition with any of a dozen young directors.

## The Clandestine Marriage Queen's

The *Clandestine Marriage* was written in the mid-1760s by the barrister Colman and the actor Garrick, though reputedly more by the first than the second, and, as the prologue makes clear, was indebted to Hogarth's *Marriage à la Mode*. At any rate, the piece has a certain social edge, involving as it does a nouveau-riche merchant in the process of bettering himself. Sterling plasters his country estate with obelisks and, more importantly to the plot, tries to interest the nobility in his two daughters.

Elizabeth Chadwick's pretty, forthright Fanny, the younger, is secretly married to his secretary, Jonathan Cullen's Lovewell. But to Sterling's aristocratic visitors she is fair game. First, Simon Chandler's snooty Sir John Melvil pesters her with professions of devotion, which is a double embarrassment, for he is about to go up the aisle with her sister. Then this young man's uncle, Lord Ogleyby, decides that he loves Fanny and

Fanny loves him. That is a worry for her but good news for us, for inside the red, gold, pink and mauve improbably festooned the addlepated earl lurks Hawthorne himself.

It is a conventional enough situation, familiar to anyone who knows Molière's *Miser or School for Wives*; but Hawthorne fills it with beautifully deft touches. He cannot fling out his arms in chivalric abandon without rick-ing his back, or fall gallantly to his knees without getting rheumatically stuck there. And even funnier than this losing war between spirit and body is Hawthorne's face, which crumples in glee or exasperation into an oddly reptilian shape, complete with a red tongue flashing from his near-lipless mouth. It is as if a self-important frog were going a-wooing, or Mr Toad had moved in with the weasels.

But try as he may, Hawthorne brings little of that finesse and delicacy of humour to the job of directing. The first mistake is the set, whose only virtue is that it must be cheap. This consists of thin slabs of speckled grey and mottled beige — the colour of modern gravestones — into which big blank doors and windows have been cut. It does nothing to evoke a milieu or a world.

Nor do most of the cast. Some supporting actors come plastered in leaves and carry around arbours, hedges and bowers for their betters to



*The Clandestine Marriage*: the acting is unquestionably strong — but where is the subtlety needed to evoke a milieu where the nobs receive their come-uppance?

move among; but the effect is less of a fake-genteel garden than of an invasion by chi-chi triffids. At other times they put on servants' greys and dash about the stage, feather-dusting the odd chair, but the impression is hardly that of an 18th-century household. It is a mere gesture towards realism, undermined by self-consciously jokey business and some pretty overblown acting.

There are strong actors on view. Christopher Benjamin brings a hearty energy to the role of Sterling,

who treats both daughters as stocks and shares, to be traded in the marriage-mart as profitably as possible. Deborah Findlay is the elder, brashly vivacious in her outrageous scarlet-and-green, and mercenary enough to reproach her lovelorn sister with a zesty yell of "love and a cottage. Fanny? Ah, give me indifference and a coach and six". As Sterling's sister, the widow Heidelberg, Susan Engel combines the pretensions of Mrs Malaprop with the aggression of Lady Bracknell and

the looks of one of those plumed, caparisoned horses that led Victorian funeral corteges.

They all have their moments, but they and everybody else miss opportunities that Gaskill, Miller and several younger directors would have helped them seize. Where is the nuance, the detail, the sense of a society in which the proto-Thatcherites are taking over from the nobs and snobs? Alas, all that is sacrificed to broad comedy, and the result is a thinner, cruder play.

**DANCE: Er, are they measuring noses?**

## Packed full of emptiness

**David Massingham Bloomsbury**

DAVID MASSINGHAM is a choreographer of extreme fluency and horrific blandness. By comparison, semolina would taste spicy and Val Doonican songs sound menacing.

Yet David Massingham Dance does have some points in its favour. Presentation is smooth and glossy and, for the latest programme at the Bloomsbury Theatre, includes expert lighting by Charles Balfour, who gives each piece a sharply differentiated look. The unisex costumes are hideous, but the five dancers in them move attractively and generously. The central, unavoidable stumbling block is the copious choreography that overwhelms you like a bad attack of logorrhea.

The present show is a modest improvement on previous ones, and *Quadrant* seems the most interesting of the three pieces offered. Set within a bright and clean space, the dancers imprint their movements like bold writing on a sheet of white paper, to a sound score by John Kefauver. The circles have a brief, but recurring existence; they are repeatedly disrupted by the unstable forces they try to harness. The sculptural groupings and duets seem calmer, more solid. But what conclusion we should draw is

really anybody's guess. Herein lies the big problem with Massingham's work. What use is fluency if it doesn't say anything? *Six Bassey Songs* is Massingham's version of Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs*. But whereas Tharp pointed up the individual personalities of her cast, Massingham's couples appear colourless and predictable. And while no rule dictates that choreography must mirror accompanying lyrics, Massingham's dances do not add their own internal logic either.

When Massingham clearly does aim for some kind of theme, his intentions are too feebly articulated. For once, the dancers positively burst with emotional differences in *With The Company We Keep*, part of Corneil's *Symphony No 3*. They engage in a never-ending round of partner-swapping and portentious, baffling hand-to-face touching in which they might be measuring noses. But it all goes nowhere and the ultimate message is indecipherable.

NADINE MEISNER

If you read some papers, you might be forgiven for believing that kids' shows this Christmas are full of appalling horrors. *The Sunday Times* vaguely refers to one London production portraying Cinderella "as the victim of child abuse". The *Yorkshire Evening Post* alerts readers to a *Snow Queen* heading for Leeds "with a dark psychological storyline based around an evil child, a feminist heroine and the maiming of a little boy". Generally the Grimm brothers are being called grim, and some parents may be alarmed about an impending visit to a harmless-sounding children's show.

This is, of course, scare-mongering. Michael Birch, staging *The Snow Queen* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, says the polemicism is media make-believe. Concern for our children is in danger of making us stifflingly protective.

## Kids' stuff, not child's play

**Kate Bassett, surveying theatre events for children this Christmas, finds many reasons for good cheer**

Accusing fingers are being pointed too readily. And a trip to an outstanding children's theatre piece, such as Tim Supple's *Grimm Tales* at the Young Vic attended by hordes of enraptured infants, certainly fills one with hope, not anguish. As Supple observes: "Children have a serious set of inner experiences, and when they go to the theatre it's not necessary always to relieve them of those."

It is in pantomime, rather, that battle-lines are being drawn. Stalwarts of old-school

panto feel that politically correct revisions — such as scrapping male Dames and leggy principal boys, as Glasgow's Tron has done — are sacrilegious. After all, pantomime is a great British institution. Oh yes it is. "Some things you don't muck about with," says Bill Robertson, long-standing panto director.

But complaints about panto come flying back from the other side. Its innuendo divides adults and children. Sport and pop personalities are cast for commercial gain without consideration of their stage talent. Stuart Paterson, whose "alternative" script is the basis for the Leeds *Snow Queen*, is forthright. "The British like awful traditions," he believes. "But they're dead behind the eyes."

Paterson suspects that panto is on the way out. That said, hey presto! Sadler's Wells — panto-less for 70 years — is reviving the tradition. Roy Hudd has the cream of panto actors up in Islington, includ-



Roy Hudd: his *Babes In The Wood* is at Sadler's Wells

ing Jack Tripp, for his *Babes In The Wood*.

But what of children's theatre during the rest of the year? Undoubtedly it is the Cinderella of the theatre. Venue doors that open magically at Christmas slam again in January. Too many productions are done on the cheap. Press coverage is sparse: top actors are otherwise employed; and Polka and Unicorn, both in London, are the only building-based children's theatres.

Yet the picture is brighter

than it might be. David Wood's West End hits, adapting Dahl's *The BFG* and *The Witches*, were encouraging. More major names are turning their hand to plays for young people: a movement fostered by Richard Eyre at the National (hence Bennett's *Wind In The Willows*). Carol Ann Duffy has translated *Grimm Tales* and John Mortimer has reworked *A Christmas Carol* for the RSC.

Alan Ayckbourn, who took a fierce line in infancy, biting *Coco the Clown*, is now enth-

the scenes. Only the prologues are dully written.

The audience is seated in the boat destined for hell, looking across an expanse of boards to the prow of the heavenly vessel. On learning that this ship could take him to eternal bliss the young nobleman (Will Keen) observes, "Transport to transport", an example of the witty flourishes Johnston adds to the text.

Lawyer, friar, shepherdess, emperor — all are given arguments appropriate to their condition, and the cast convey an alarmed, at times despairing, sense that they are truly engaged in a battle for life or death. Jason Thorpe as a gabbling simpleton and Craig Edwards in three very different roles (moneylender, shepherd and cardinal) rapidly create sturdy credible characters. And to either side of them Tony Curran and Phil McKee, alternating the roles of humourless angel and sarcastic devil, dispense moral messages or horrid relish.

Inventive, sometimes sumptuous, costumes add to a dreamlike mood that veers into the nightmarish with the realisation that, in Vicente's day, it was best to die very young, so as to be innocent of anything more serious than stealing a penny from an even younger brother.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Portuguese moral maze

**The Boat Plays Gate**

A LEARNED bishop was reminding us in these pages the other day that Advent is a time for considering the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell. Gil Vicente's three short plays, dating from 1519, are concerned with those very four, plus a fifth, Purgatory, which could be classified as 3(a).

Unknown to the majority of us, Vicente is the father of Portuguese drama, itself a seldom opened volume, but David Johnston's translation and adaptation contrives a way of leading us into this remote period, distant not so much in time as in its processes of thinking and belief.

Elated by its discoveries in India and Brazil, the Lisbon of King Manuel was the richest city in Europe and, if Vicente is to be believed, her people were consumed with greed, pride and all the other offences that ought to have made *Last Thing No 2* a nasty prospect.

To scare them into taking more thought for their souls, his plays are set in the harbour of the netherworld, from where boats are departing for hellfire or heavenly bliss. The newly dead arrive, argue with the devil who claims them for his own or, but only rarely, are



Unscorched: Tony Curran as the humourless angel

welcomed by the white-winged angel. The devil has leathery wings too but they are scorched.

The dramatic conflict is almost exclusively in the form of duologues. In each play half a dozen newly dead humans, initially puzzled by their surroundings, pit their wits against two unsympathetic immortals.

I suspect that a straight translation would be unendurable, even though Vicente evidently varies his style of writing for the class and attitude of his characters, but Johnston's colloquial version and the creative team led by David Farr (director) and Angela Davies (designer) give zest to the arguments and vivid pictorial excitement to

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Anyone who pays rent or a mortgage will have been affected by the Budget. Rachel Kelly reports

## Tough time ahead in the market

Of all the worlds changed by last week's Budget, probably the most affected was property. Practically all aspects of housing have been touched by change.

First the market. It is absorbing the shock of the withdrawal of mortgage help for the unemployed, which will further depress an already fragile housing market, chartered surveyors and estate agents warned last week.

Michael Pattison, chief executive of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, says: "The Budget measures will cut the amount that

homebuyers can afford to pay each month because a significant percentage will have to be diverted to unemployment insurance."

Mr Pattison said that the new rules would hit those in insecure employment and on short-term contracts. "They will find it difficult to obtain insurance cover at reasonable cost," Shirley Lee (see below) is one such homeowner who knows the problems of trying to find

insurance cover with a large mortgage.

Robin Paterson, managing director of the London agents Cluttons, says that the measures would particularly affect first-time buyers, who were already suffering the continuing reduction of Miras to 15 per cent from next April. "I would have hoped that the Chancellor would therefore have announced a plan to offset this burden on first-



Kenneth Clarke: the market is assessing his message

time buyers, but there was no extra help announced."

Carol Grant, from the housing charity Shelter, said the measures would further depress the market, and that the restriction of benefits could lead to an extra 13,000 repossessions and a rise in homelessness. Gary Marsh, for the Halifax Building Society, said the mortgage benefit measures had dealt another blow to a housing

market already living in the shadow of higher borrowing costs. "It can only delay any recovery," he said.

The blow comes at a time when both the Nationwide and Halifax have recorded price falls in November, of 2.7 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively (though both societies insist that the underlying trend in prices is broadly flat). The Halifax says the average house cost £62,169

in November compared with £62,209 in October.

Then housing associations. They are adapting to cuts in their grant budgets, which will almost certainly lead to changes in the design and size of housing association property as Christine Webb reports below.

And, finally, the heritage world. The Chancellor confirmed changes to the VAT rules, which mean that VAT is no longer applied to the conversion of "non-residential buildings" into "dwellings". From next March, the rules will receive statutory confirmation. Barn converters are taking note (see below.)

## A fresh look to an old place

A rash of new barn conversions is expected after changes confirmed in the Budget. Since July, converters have saved 17.5 per cent of their costs because they have been able to claim back the VAT incurred on building work. The changes will enter the statute books from next March, the Chancellor said.

Philip Venning, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, says that the changes will lead to a tide of barn conversions similar to that which swamped his office in the late 1980s.

All applications for changes to listed buildings pass through his office, and many barns are listed. His concern is that such conversions are often intrusive. Effectively, the barn becomes a new building altogether, complete with dormer windows, garages, hedges and lawns. Gardens collect around the barn, spoiling and suburbanising the countryside.

Ideally, like other conservationists, he would prefer a low-key industrial or craft use which would generate employment and preserve the barn intact. But he admits that the immediate financial gain to be had from selling a barn for residential rather than any other use is difficult for farmers to ignore.

"The effect of the changes confirmed in the Budget will be for farmers and others to apply for planning permission for conversion," he says. "It would have been far better if the Chancellor had removed VAT on repairs to listed buildings."

For would-be barn converters, Dr Patrick Strange, vice-chairman of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, advises choosing a barn within the curtilage of an existing village where the disruption to the countryside is minimised.

Barns vary in shape, size and history in different parts of Britain. In Devon for example, barns are often built into



Top left, the 17th-century barn as it was before work began in 1992; bottom left, the work in progress; right, the finished conversion, at a cost of £138,000, complete with inglenook fireplace

THIS 17th-century barn on a Kent farm was disused and had become dilapidated. The adjoining farm buildings and farmyard were no longer in use but the barn was listed and had to be preserved, Rachel Kelly writes. Listed building consent and planning permission were obtained in 1990. Given the isolated nature of the site, the woman owner prefers to remain anonymous.

Work began in August 1992. The site cost £35,000 and the construction of the barn

### CASE STUDY ONE: A GREAT BARN OF A PLACE

£138,000. A further £15,000 was spent clearing up the garden and creating a drive and there were extra payments to the chartered surveyors, Carter Jonas. Because the building was listed and substantial reconstruction was involved, no VAT was paid on the main barn, though VAT was paid on converting the surrounding buildings.

"The main problem with these conversions is using the large single timber-framed space, while fitting in with the building control regulations," Nigel Lindley, from Carter Jonas, says. "Here we had a cube about 18 ft square, too small to accommodate the whole house but on the large side for a single room."

The solution was to create a large inglenook

fireplace off centre, which created a sitting room with two semi-enclosed areas, one a snug, one a study. The room enjoys the original oak frame, posts and rafters. Natural oak windows and the peg tile roof conceal slabs of polyurethane insulation board.

New "wings" based on the existing buildings were created to house the kitchen and the bedrooms. The modern construction is hidden behind black stained boarding and Kent tiles on the roof.

the hillside so that access is from the higher level to the threshing floor while on the lower side there would be a cow house.

Those in search of barn conversions will discover more barns in the South-East than in the North, Dr Strange says. Estate agents are the most common source. Millerson agents in Liskeard, Cornwall, have a good selection in their books; so do Carter Jonas in York; Browns

estate agents in Guildford; Stags estate agents in Tonnes; Millerson in Okehampton, Devon; and Knight Frank & Rutley in the Cotswolds.

Those who find a barn in need of conversion will find their building choices restricted, thanks in part to the success of the conservationist lobby which has campaigned against some of the more dramatic changes.

Many barns are listed, requiring listed building con-

sent. Or if they are not listed, they are in conservation areas or areas of outstanding natural beauty, in which stricter planning rules apply.

Nigel Lindley, a chartered building surveyor from Carter Jonas, says: "There are two main problems: First, what to do with the old, great doors. Usually they look awful, but you are not allowed to change them. Secondly, you are not allowed to punch in lots of windows. So, quite often, you

end up being able to use only a proportion of the space of the barn because the rest of it is in darkness."

For barns with bats or owls in residence, English Nature must be consulted. The Wildlife and Countryside Act says that their habitats should be respected.

Leslie McKracken, a former National Trust man, has converted a barn in Devon. "We worked with local builders, craftsmen and professionals

who respected the spirit of the place. I would say that you have to respect and have sympathy for the original purpose of the building. You need time to join in the planning and construction during the week. An occasional weekend is not enough."

Despite the difficulties, as Atty Beor-Roberts from Knight Frank & Rutley's office says, converting a barn is often the only way of being able to buy an inexpensive

house that is truly rural.

The final satisfaction, says Mr McKracken, is to show your friends a photograph of the barn a year ago, when it had no roof and was full of the clutter of a farmyard, an old car and some hens. "Then enjoy their wonder."

RACHEL KELLY

Stags 083 365454; Millerson, 0837 54080; Knight Frank & Rutley 0799 297735; Browns 043 31166; Carter Jonas 0904 627436.



James Way in his light and airy Heath Barn, Warwickshire

THREE and half years ago, James Way, his son Ben, 6, and his Labrador Tessa moved into Heath Barn, an isolated Warwickshire barn half way between Leamington Spa and Rugby.

The barn lies away from the main farm buildings, thereby avoiding the problem of living next door to a silage tower. An ugly Dutch barn made of steel was demolished and a derelict cottage on the same site had been pulled down 40 years before.

Conversion work had already begun when Mr Way arrived: his parents-in-law had installed water, two storeys, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a drawing room, dining room and main hall. But there was no electricity and Mr Way had to spend the first three months with only a generator because the

local electricity board had not yet laid a new cable.

"The barn was on land which my parents-in-law farmed," Mr Way, a 41-year-old estate agent with Knight Frank & Rutley, says. "Originally, the conversion was intended for them, but as part of my divorce settlement, I inherited the building."

The conversion is sympathetic, making best use of the building's existing features. He has avoided features that typically mar such conversions. Instead, the wooden exposed truss timbers remain; the windows in the roof are flat velux roof lights, preserving the original outline. The bedrooms are perhaps slightly smaller than he would

wish, because of the sloping ceilings and the roof timbers which he was not allowed to remove.

A SYMPATHETIC conversion meant that planning permission from Rugby Borough Council was forthcoming. The barn continues to look like a barn: "It's preservation was the only reason for allowing it to be converted in the first place."

Room sizes and shapes were dictated by the existing window openings, Mr Way says.

"New windows may well not be accepted by the planners," he says. "So some barns can end up being dark." His own barn is light and airy, thanks to the windows in the

old driftway doors of the building. The garden is lawned. It needed 250 hours of labour to pick out stones laid by generations of farmers and to decontaminate it from diesel and petrol. Mr Way has deliberately kept the scenery wild with only some new hedges to protect him from the westerly winds. "Converting your barn may displace previous occupants. I put up owl nest boxes on an old tree nearby and deliberately left rough patches of garden for butterflies. I've also avoided 500-watt floodlights which frighten away wildlife."

Mr Way spent about £130,000 on building and land costs. He estimates that Heath Barn and its six

acres is now worth about £200,000.

The best bits of living at Heath Barn are the large sitting room, which accommodates the large Victorian furniture Mr Heath was left by his grandmother, the views and the wildlife.

"The barn is two fields back from the road, with badger setts nearby, ducks on my pond, hares usually visible from the kitchen windows, and a plentiful supply of rabbits, pheasants, rooks, song birds, kestrels and sparrow-hawks," he says.

It would have been impossible to get planning permission for such a superb rural site had he not converted a barn.

The only disadvantage is that the drive is used for herding sheep, a problem, Mr Way says, when he is in a tearing hurry for work.

### CASE STUDY TWO: CONVERTING TO A LIFE ON THE FARM

## When cheap is simply nasty

How can we judge value for money in social housing? There are worries that the slums of the future are just being built

Fears that poor homes are being built for poor people have been ignited by cuts in the Budget to grants for social housing. Last week, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, announced cuts of £300 million next year to the Housing Corporation. This funds housing associations, which provide houses for those in housing need. Plummeting grants and rising costs are forcing some associations to cut more corners than they would like, particularly in the rented sector.

The pressure to downgrade is fierce, say associations, because a drop in annual grants is already biting. Some say the quest for quantity rather than quality is leading to a repeat of the mistakes made in the Sixties.

A recent Rowntree Foundation paper suggests a third of new housing association homes lack space for all residents to sit down and eat together.

John Perry, policy director for the Chartered Institute of Housing, fears that foundations are now being laid for the slums of the future. "The Rowntree research confirmed our impression that standards are falling and we feel the Corporation is too obsessed with the amount of private money pulled in by associations."

"We learnt from the mistakes of the Sixties by the successive associations in the late Seventies and early Eighties when some excellent social housing was built, and we're now sacrificing the lessons we learnt at the altar of excessive cost controls."

"This Budget cut will put even more pressure on standards because the Corporation will try to get a quart out of the pint pot by asking associations to build as much as they can for as little as

possible. Their remit is to maximise the number of houses so as to minimise the amount of grant per unit, which currently averages £25,000 per dwelling."

Associations provide nearly 40,000 of the 124,000 new social housing units needed per year. They have had to estimate land and building cost rises before next April when the Government releases the cash they have bid for. Construction costs are expected to rise 7.5 per cent next year and building tenders already indicate some schemes in the pipeline will not be viable.

The Rowntree research, co-written by Manchester University Professor Valerie Karm, says space standards have fallen since 1988, and urged the Government to reinstate minimum standards.

As a bench mark, she used the 1961 Parker Morris space standards, which governed council housing until they were dropped by the Government 12 years ago. She found 60 per cent of association homes had no independent circulation space, 68 per cent were more than 5 per cent below Parker Morris standards, and one in six were more than 15 per cent below, while 98 per cent had less storage space than recommended.

"High levels of homelessness and a severe shortage of affordable homes to rent make this a difficult time to argue for improved quality as well as quantity of housing. Declining levels of government grant have led to substantial rent rises, which means tenants are increasingly paying more for less," she says.

"Like the high-rise failures of the Sixties, homes are being increasingly built with little scope for future adaptation and enlargement



Is the quest for quantity rather than quality leading to a repeat of the mistakes made in the Sixties?

and offer poor long-term value. The lesson of the Sixties is that numbers are not everything and a minimum cost per unit approach will, in the long-term, prove disastrous."

A spokesman for the National Federation of Housing Associations said its members were constrained by their budgets: "The Housing Corporation is being squeezed by a Government obsessed with what it calls value for money. Associations are finding it difficult not to go for economies of scale."

With rents now running worryingly close to market prices, at £60-80 a week, housing benefit cuts could have a profound effect on the viability of associations.

Meanwhile, building societies, which lend associations about 70 per cent of a valuation of a new house, are becoming tentative. In July, the Council of Mortgage Lenders took the unprecedented step of writing to David Curry, housing and local government minister, warning that lenders would be forced to review their lending policy if the Housing Association Grant rate fell below 60

per cent, which it will next year — to 58 per cent from 67 per cent.

"Already some lenders are choosing not to accept certain applications and this will intensify as the HAG rate falls," Andrew Longhurst, the chairman, wrote. The response was an agreement to differ. Lenders are also looking at how well the houses will age since they have an eye to what the property will be like in 25 years.

But the Housing Corporation says that with applications for next year's grant allocation over subscribed five-fold, funding problems are hardly apparent. "There has been a decrease in certain types of house but overall there has been no shift in standards. Anecdotal evidence is not borne out by our experience," a spokesperson says.

Some associations, such as the Birmingham-based Focus Housing Association, have produced their own design standards. "We realised we were in danger of reducing standards beyond a point where we felt happy and we drew a line beyond which we would not go,"

Tony Bowron, operations director, says.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) is keen to see a new minimum standard. Stuart Mackie, its housing group chairman, says: "True value for money is rarely found in the lowest initial cost. There should be a much greater emphasis on cost in use."

"Current policies on the funding of new-build and refurbished housing concentrate unreasonably on low initial cost. There have been drops of 10 to 15 per cent below Parker Morris. There has to be a balance between what's affordable and what is desirable, but there are standards below which we should not fall. We're hiding the problem and it is the next generation who will have to pay for upgrading."

David Levitt, an architect and member of Riba's Housing Group and the National Housing Forum, says: "Grant levels have reached the end of the line. Certain associations have reduced their standards and heaven help them over the next two years."

CHRISTINE WEBB

Some homeowners cannot get cover

## Left high and dry by changes

SHIRLEY Lee, 44, is a single mother with three children and a £275,000 mortgage. Since her earnings fell because of a series of bereavements, the £2,000-a-month interest payments on the mortgage on her five-bedroom home in Highcliffe, Dorset, are being paid by the taxpayer, Rachel Kelly writes.

Changes announced in Kenneth Clarke's Budget will mean that homeowners who, like Mrs Lee, fall on hard times will find it more difficult to get government help with their mortgage.

Mr Clarke announced that income support will be paid only after the first nine months, and that help to existing borrowers will be scaled down. Mr Clarke said homeowners who become unemployed and cannot meet their mortgage payments should rely on insurance.

But Mrs Lee says, the reality of finding such cover is fraught with problems for the homeowner. She is unconvinced by Mr Clarke's arguments. "Many people will now fall through the net and lose their homes," she says.

Many insurance firms will not provide cover for those who like herself are self-employed, she says: "I am a speech therapist. I bought a mortgage-repayment insurance scheme when I took out my mortgage, but I did not read the small print until a few months later. Then I realised there was no point paying the premiums because I was not covered, anyway."

"There are other exclusions, too, in most policies. There are limits to what insurance companies will do. Many mortgage indemnity schemes still leave the homeowner in debt because they pick up only a certain portion of the shortfall owing to a lender when a house is sold. The rest of the debt remains with the homeowner."

If homeowners fall into financial difficulties, they quickly become

unable to pay for such insurance policies, Mrs Lee says. "If you miss one month," she adds, "you are not covered."

The delay of nine months before government help is forthcoming means that many homeowners will already have lost their homes, Mrs Lee maintains. "Unless they have a lot of equity and savings, they won't be able to survive."

Other homeowners who rent out property have also been hit by the Budget. Mr Clarke also announced cuts in housing benefit, paid by the Government to those in housing need. Such benefit is paid by councils to tenants who rent accommodation from private landlords.

"Authorities will not be fully reimbursed if they pay housing benefit on rents significantly above the average for the area and type of property," Mr Clarke said. "The previous arrangements meant that neither the landlord nor the tenant usually had any incentive to negotiate a lower rent because housing benefit would usually pay the rent in full." This, he said, had had the inevitable effect of driving up rents and public expenditure.

IN FUTURE, he said, people on housing benefit would have an incentive to make the same judgments about what they can afford as people who have to pay all their own rent. The system would no longer be prey to the unscrupulous landlord.

The reform will take effect from October 1995. Existing claimants remaining in their present homes will not be affected.

Landlords have pointed out that the changes will mean that they have to scrutinise far more carefully the proposed incoming tenant. There are inherent extra costs to the landlord in letting to those in receipt of housing benefit in the form of extra insurance premiums, higher turnover of tenants and damage to buildings in the sector.







# Pick the top-scoring *Times* Courage First XV

**T**oday is your first chance to pick a winning team for the second half of *The Times* Courage First XV rugby game and win valuable prizes including tickets to the five nations' championship. Just select the 15 players from the clubs in the first and second divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship who you think would amass the most points during the second half of the league season, which kicks off on January 7.

The selector with the highest total will win a trip to Paris for two to see the France v England match in 1996. Second prize is a trip for two to Murrayfield for the 1996 Calcutta Cup match between Scotland and England and third prize is two tickets for the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham on May 6 as guests of Courage.

This is your chance to play the First XV game and join 20,000 readers who entered the main, season-long competition. If you did enter at the start of the season but would like to play in the competition covering the second half only, you can enter now.

points during the nine remaining league matches this season (the first is on January 7, the last on April 29):

Rated points are calculated by multiplying the actual number of points scored by each player on the field by the rating beside his name on the positional playing field below.

Each Wednesday after a Courage Clubs Championship Saturday, the actual scores of all the first and second division players in the competition will be published in *The Times* together with their weekly scores and cumulative rated scores for both the season and the second half of the season.

The 50 leading selectors and their scores will be printed, together with the name and score of the weekly winner.

## TEAM SELECTION

Select one player from each of the 15 positions below. Enter their code number beside their **positional number** on the entry form — for example, if Jon Callard is your selected full back, enter 001 beside position 15 on the entry form.

You must pick players only for the positions under which they have been listed, even if you know they sometimes play in other positions.

A minimum of five of your selected XV must be players from second division clubs. You may select one kicker only (denoted by a K after his name). If you pick fewer than five second division players or more than one kicker, your entry will be invalid.

The skill lies in weighing up the merits of a lower-rated, frequent scorer against a higher-rated player who is likely to score less often. You should

## THE GAME PLAN

**The Times Courage First XV** revolves around the players listed below, who represent the 20 clubs in the top two divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship. The object of the game is to select the 15 men who amass the highest number of points from the nine matches during the second half of the season.

## HOW TO SCORE

**Pick the XV which amasses the highest number of rated**



also remember that some clubs operate a rota system, so not all players will play in every game. Towards the end of the season, with the World Cup looming, some senior players may be rested.

The list of players for the second half of the season shows some changes because of injuries and departures. The new players have a code number of more than 300 and in three positions (numbers 1, 4 and 7) no replacements have been picked.

These new players are eligible for the second-half competition only; selections for the

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The Times Courage First XV is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees and their families of News International, Courage Ltd and their agents.
2. Postal entries accepted only on official entry forms or through the dedicated telephone line.
3. There is no limit to the number of telephone selections/entries anyone may make, nor to the number of postal selections/entries provided each is accompanied by a cheque/postal

first half and full season  
games are not affected.

The second half of the season kicks off on January 7 with some intriguing matches. Bath, the first division leaders, are away to their neighbours Bristol, while Harlequins are hoping for a revival of fortunes against Sale, their visitors. West Hartlepool, away at Orrell, field the Scottish No 8, Rob Wainwright, who moved to the club after the start of the season and is one of the new players (No 314).

It will be equally intriguing to see if Justin Nott can maintain his slender lead from the first half of the season over the other 20,000 people who entered the first half of the competition. The team selections submitted by all those entrants will remain valid for the competition covering the whole season, with their cumulative scores from the first nine games carried forward to January. Each contestant is still in with a chance of winning the star prize of £10,000, the second prize of a trip for two to South Africa to see England's three World Cup pool games in Durban, or one of ten third prizes of a fully

installed BT Satellite system, two cases of Courage Directors Bitter and two four-hour VHS video tapes.

The selector whose team achieves the highest number of points on each of the nine remaining Saturdays of the Courage Clubs Championship — whether that team has been entered for the competition covering the whole season or just for the second half — will win a fully installed BT satellite system and two cases of Courage beer.

Each selector who wins any prize also wins a prize for their nominated rugby club. This can be any British rugby club: the winner does not have to be a player, or even a member. The winners' clubs will each receive five cases of Courage beer, a Courage Best England shirt, plus one of the following, drawn at random:

☐ A training session by an England squad member;  
☐ An England shirt or training shirt signed by the England team;  
☐ A ball signed by the England team;  
☐ A table for ten at the Courage lunch before England's game against Scotland in March.

**By telephone:** You may enter by calling 0891 700 515 using a touchtone telephone. Most push-button telephones with an asterisk and hash keys are touchtones.

1. Fill in the entry form below and have it in front of you when you telephone.
2. The recorded message will explain step by step what to do; basically, you will have to key in ("dial") the three-digit code for each of your 15 players.

1. You will then be asked for the name you want to give your team (which should have no more than 16 characters) followed by your own name and address and the name of your nominated rugby club. Speak slowly and clearly throughout this section, spelling out any difficult words.

2. Have a pen ready to take down your Personal Identification Number.

Calls will be charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times. Calls should take around five minutes. Telephone lines are open 24 hours a day from Monday. The closing time for entering by telephone is midnight on Wednesday, January 1995.

All selections received by the postal or telephone deadlines will be acknowledged within 10 days and selectors will be sent a score sheet on which to keep track of their teams' performances, with a team sheet confirming the selection. If there are errors, the amendment sheet must be returned within seven days.

All inquiries regarding the competition should be directed to **The Times Courage First**, PO Box 600, Luton, LU2 9JZ, telephone 0582-457444.



**First XV newcomer:** Rob Wainwright is available for selection after a late start with West Hartlepool

## HOW TO ENTER

**By post:** Complete the entry form below in block capitals (ignoring the Personal Identification Number — that is for telephone entries only) and send it, with a cheque/postal order for £1.50 made payable to First XV, to:

**The Times Courage First**  
XV, PO Box 600, Luton, LU2  
0NZ.  
It must arrive before noon  
on Saturday, January 7, 1995.

[illegible]











Top seed joined by resilient Becker in Grand Slam Cup quarter-finals

# Swift Sampras sees chance of revenge

FROM STUART JONES  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN MUNICH

PETE Sampras and Boris Becker have started here as they left off in Frankfurt a fortnight ago. The winner and runner-up respectively in the ATP Tour tennis championship finals, they reached the quarter-finals of the Grand Slam Cup yesterday.

In doing so, they both gained revenge and, in Sampras's case, spectacularly so. The top seed eliminated Jaime Yzaga, who had subdued him in the US Open championship, 6-2, 6-4 in 58 minutes to claim the quickest victory recorded in the knockout competition inaugurated four years ago.

By contrast, Becker had to come from behind to beat Wayne Ferreira, who had prematurely ended his less than convincing challenge for

Munich results... Page 45

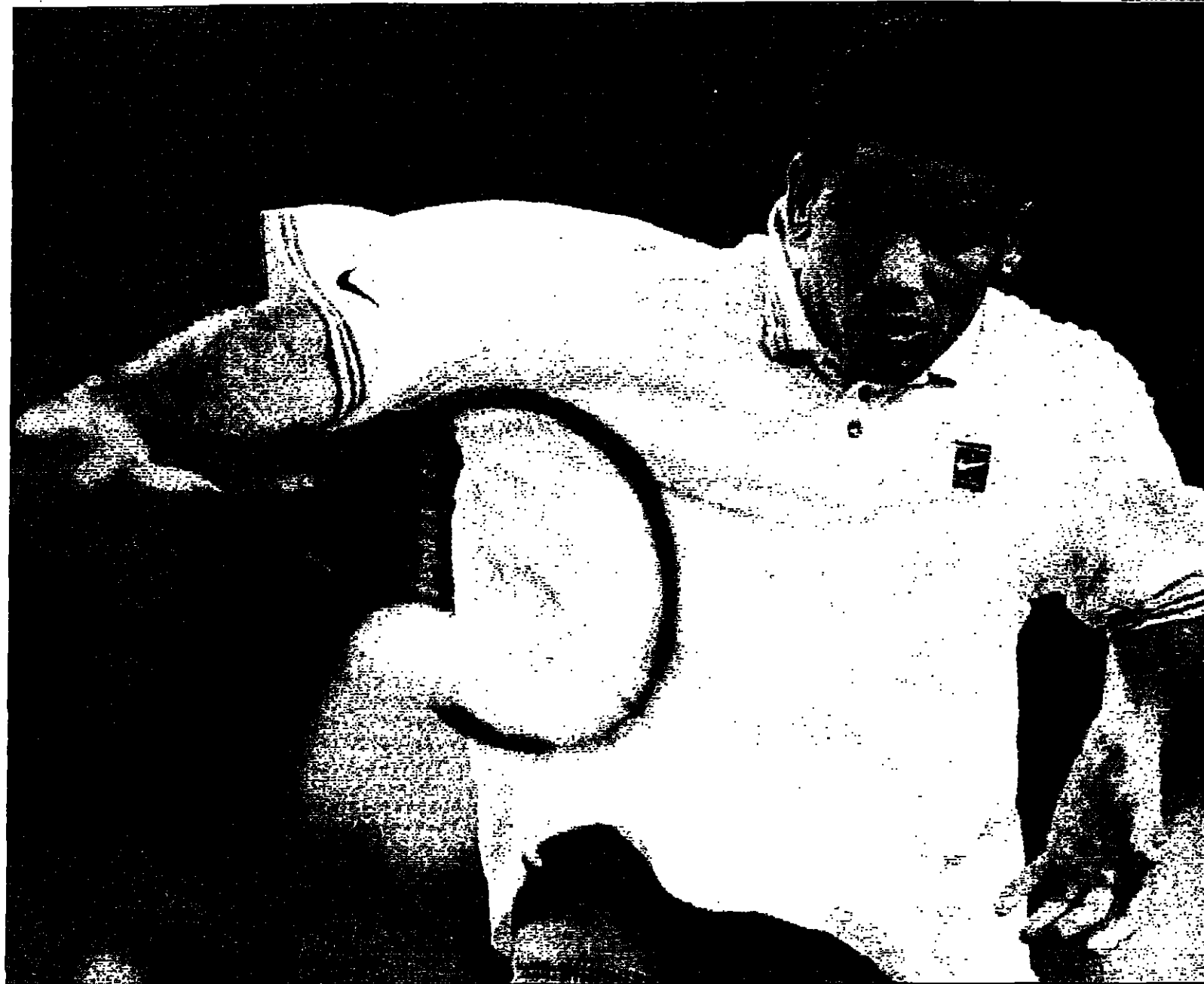
the Cup last year. The German, now ranked No 3 in the world, took six minutes short of two hours to go through 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Yzaga, from Lima, is the only Peruvian and, at 5ft 7in, the smallest competitor to have appeared in the event. His nationality and stature apart, he has made no lasting impression inside the Olympiahalle. Twice he has entered and twice he has been dismissed in the first round.

In 1991, the year he reached the last eight in the Australian Open, he was still recovering from tendinitis in both knees when he was knocked out in straight sets by Guy Forget. Against Sampras, his difficulties lay in the composition beneath his feet. It might have been grass.

"I don't think it is very fast," Sampras said. "I think it is very, very fast." Likening the surface to the centre court at Wimbledon, where he has collected the past two championships, he won 97 per cent of the points on his first serve. A dozen of them were aces.

"The strokes are the same out there, short swings," he added. "You need to get to the net as soon as possible. It suits my serve-and-volley game but it is tough to return. I would



Sampras, the top seed, hits a backhand shot during his impressive victory over Yzaga, of Peru, in the Grand Slam Cup yesterday

like the court to be a bit slower." So would his beleaguered opponent.

In their five previous matches, Yzaga had been the victor more often than not. He had edged ahead in the series at Flushing Meadows in September when they met in the last 16. "I saw him for four hours," Sampras recalled. "That was a bit too long for me."

Then, after five protracted sets, he was afflicted by exhaustion and dehydration. Yesterday, he scarcely broke

sweat. Ominously, his efficiency in the first round is increasing. In 1992, Aleksandr Volkov lasted 68 minutes. Last year, Thomas Muster yielded in an hour.

Yzaga, a 27-year-old ranked No 31 in the world, left clutching ample compensation for the swiftest defeat. Invited to take the place of Michael Stich (who, alone among the leading players, declined to compete), he earned himself almost \$1.725 (about £1,100) a minute.

Last year, Becker could have

stood accused of collecting the same lavish prize-money, \$100,000, without bothering to extend himself. He had chosen not to attend the event until Axel Meyer-Wolden, the organiser, had also become his financial adviser.

On his debut, betraying an apparent sense of disenchantment, Becker allowed himself to be ushered out by Ferreira, a South African who had never beaten him before, in straight sets. Nobody could have suspected that he was

guilty of a similar lack of interest yesterday.

The court favoured both of them. They had qualified for the event, designed to reward those who had been the most prominent in the four grand slam championships, principally because of their performances at Wimbledon, where Becker progressed to the last four and Ferreira to the last eight.

Becker, broken in the eleventh game, dropped the first set but established an early

lead in the second and pulled well clear in the third. In his present form, he could again pose a threat to Sampras, whom he is scheduled to meet in the semi-finals.

Sampras will next play his fellow American, Michael Chang. He disposed of Alberto Berasategui, the Spanish clay-court specialist, who was so palpably out of his depth on the indoor carpet in Frankfurt. He was here, too, going out 6-1, 7-5 in three minutes over an hour.

## Parke succumbs to Jansher's pressure

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN KARACHI

JANSHER KHAN understands the value of pressure. Last week, the world squash champion applied some in an attempt to improve his finances, and yesterday it was Simon Parke, the Nottingham-based Yorkshireman, who took his turn on the receiving end.

Jansher had told the Pakistan Squash Federation last week that he might have to "think seriously" about playing for his country in the world team championship next year unless a long-promised promotion in the management structure of Pakistan International Airways — which employs many of its country's leading players — was forthcoming.

Assurances having apparently been given, Jansher's tactics proved equally successful yesterday as he reached the last eight of the Pakistan Open championship here, beating Parke in 38 minutes.

Parke, 22, who has recently shown encouraging signs of a return to form on the Asian tour, was 6-2 down after five minutes of unrelenting attack by Jansher. "I have never felt so drained in so short a time,"

the resilient England No 7, said. Jansher won the first game 15-7, and within six minutes of the second was 13-2 ahead. Parke's senses were so scrambled that he went to leave the court three times before Jansher secured the game.

Jansher eventually won 15-7, 15-2, 15-12 to earn a quarter-final match against Chris Walker, the England No 2, today.

Peter Marshall, the British champion and world No 2, is through to meet Ross Norman, of New Zealand, and Del Harris, the England No 3 who beat Peter Nicol in the first round, overcame his compatriot Danny Meddings to earn a match against Brett Martin, the second seed, in the last eight today.

Martin's younger brother, Rodney, won through to the fourth quarter-final, an all-Australian affair against Rodney Eyles, with the winner doubtless to face more pressure tactics from Jansher tomorrow, unless Walker can produce the performance of his life.

Results, page 45

## Staying to the whistle will do for starters

Nobody who has lived in the world can have failed to recognise, if not positively identify with, the adventures of Steve McMahon last weekend.

Most of us will have laughed, winced and said: "I've been there myself." On Saturday, McMahon had his first match as player-manager of mighty Swindon Town. He had spent the previous week adopting what theologians term "defensive threat behaviour". Swindon was to become a byword for toughness, and if it took a few yellow cards, let 'em come.

And so McMahon got himself sent off, thus completing a classic example of the Bad Start. Now, it must be noted that Bad Starts come in two categories (at least they do if we remember that I have forsaken all Captain Brown jokes).

The first is the Bad Start from which the athlete eventually recovers. There are two archetypal examples of the perfect Bad Start at present duelling in Australia. The first is Shane Warne. He got his career off to a wonderful beginning when he became the first, and still the only, person to be thrown out of the Australian Cricket Academy for bad behaviour (presumably this is like being thrown out of MCC for right-wing views).

However, in the end, Australia relented and gambled on Warne for a Test match. The opponents were India. Warne's figures for India's first and only innings were 45-7-150-1. The wicket was that of Rav Shastri, a useful scalp, but considering that Shastri had by then made 206, it is legitimate to question the completeness of Warne's victory.

Opposing him for England in the present series is Graham Gooch, still doughy after all these years. But the old boy can't get to 20 without someone recalling how, in his first Test match, he made a pair. Warne and Gooch have both achieved prodigious things in spite, or because, of the Bad Start who can say which?

I wonder how many bats-

men have walked out for their first innings in first-class cricket, muttering an impromptu prayer: "Just one run, anything, just so long as it's not a duck." Just about everyone who has ever picked up a bat, I expect.

And the prayer has gone unanswered in many a case. Players who began their first-class careers with a duck include Ted Dexter, Frank Woolley, Douglas Jardine, Len Hutton, Wally Hammond and C.B. Fry. Also

race, he crashed on the first lap. Third race, he drove up someone's backside at the start again. Other disasters followed as the season unfolded.

In his last race, he actually finished third, a lap behind, but by then McLaren were fed up and let him go. A Bad Start he never recovered.

The thing about the Bad Start is that, in the main, we only remember the ones that were followed by Glorious Recoveries. Thus they become a rather comforting chunk of irony. No disaster is ever a final disaster. Apart from when it is, of course.

How many bad starts are concealed in the yellow pages of the great yellow book of *Wisden*, how many noughts, how many ones for 150s have been recorded by eager debutants, whose names themselves now mean nothing. They made the worst possible start but then things went downhill.

And in the records of every football club that ever played, there will be names appearing in the team-list for a single game, or maybe two or three, mysterious names that appear briefly and then vanish forever. In a game not responsive to statistics, you then wonder who these people were, what they did, why they never appeared again.

Were they sent off? Hopelessly outpaced? Dreadfully injured? Unable to control the ball? Simply overawed? Lacking physical courage? One thing, and one thing only, is clear: each man made his Bad Start, and did so without giving us a legacy of comfortable irony.

Why is sport so cruel?

Because it is bloody well supposed to be, that's why. For every Gooch and every Warne, there are a thousand Lloyds and a thousand Andreitis, anonymous players whose names ring no bells, whose fall was less public, less spectacular, but whose personal disaster was every bit as great. The Bad Start is for some people — talented and resilient people — a source of greater strength. For others, perhaps even the majority, it is the prelude to a Bad End.

### MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

W.G. Grace, though Grace did ally the pain a little by taking 13 wickets. Huston also made a duck in his first Test innings, so for that matter did Victor Trumper.

It is clear that the Bad Start can be a powerful giver of strength. Warne and Gooch went into their first Tests, like everybody else, with a clear idea of the worst thing that could possibly happen. And that is exactly what did happen. Acquainted with disaster, these two men, players each bearing the seed of greatness, were then able to flourish.

But there is another kind of Bad Start, from which the player never recovers. Take poor Andy Lloyd who, in his first Test, facing Malcolm Marshall, ducked into a bouncer that never got up. His career, his eyesight and his nerve never recovered.

Michael Andreitis had a similar trauma, but it went on and on. He came into Formula One from IndyCars in 1993 as the fastest thing on wheels. In his first race he stalled at the start, drove into the back of another car. Next

## Petersen's troubles continue to mount

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

NEAL PETERSEN, the young South African yachtsman competing in the BOC Challenge solo round the world race, was last night riding out a 45-knot gale in the Roaring Forties latitudes after his yacht had been knocked down and dismantled 300 miles south of Port Elizabeth.

Petersen, the first black sailor to compete in a round the world race, reported that the seas were washing over his 40ft home-built yacht. *Save Our Sealife*, but said that he intended to stay with his vessel overnight, rather than take to his life raft, in the hope that the weather will abate sufficiently to allow him to effect emergency repairs.

Harry Mitchell, the 70-year-old British sailor from Portsmouth who had set out from Cape Town six days ago along with Petersen to chase after the fleet on this second stage of the race to Sydney, was standing by ready to pick up the South African if he decided to abandon his yacht.

Mitchell was 90 miles northeast of *Save Our Sealife* yesterday and could rendezvous with Petersen later today ahead of any rescue mission launched by the South African navy.

This is the latest in a long line of mishaps to befall the South African. During the BOC Transatlantic Challenge earlier this year, his simple yacht suffered a succession of leaks and torn sails during the voyage from Falmouth to Charleston.

Then, within a week of embarking on this latest challenge, the yacht's foremast broke and Petersen was forced to put into Bermuda for repairs. Having set out from Cape Town a week after the fleet, his dream of becoming the first coloured yachtsman to circumnavigate the globe alone appears to have been shattered.

Even if he can get *Save Our Sealife* back to South Africa, the chance of getting the boat re-rigged in time to reach Sydney to line up for the restart of the race on January 29 must be slim.

## Not the Ring of truth

Ringlets: Das Rheingold. Radio 3, 10.35pm.

This is Wagner without tears, and almost without Wagner. *Das Rheingold*, distilled down to ten minutes by Matt Thomson. All the voices, including a Wotan that is a Gielgud sound-alike, belong to David Holt. "Horrid dwarf," he fumes then, "says nursery rhymes. 'But we don't fancy him, we-he-he-he!' trill the maidens. Quick out to Valhalla Castle where Wotan complains: 'The negative equity on this pile is killing me!' Another quick out to Wotan, brandishing the ring he has swiped from Alberich as he trumpets an amended Cole Porter lyric: 'I'm the top! Then Wagner howls: 'But this is my opera!' His opera is on Radio 3 tomorrow afternoon."

Classic Gardening Forum. Classic FM, 7.00pm.

The biggest laugh comes when panelist Walter Gilmore says a fellow Scot grew an onion that was so big that when he cut it open in Harrogate people cried in Paisley. I would say this forum is altogether more relaxed than BBC radio's *Gardeners' Question Time*, of which it is an offshoot. But I still have reservations about its hybrid format — mixing gardening tips with snippets of classical music. It took some doing to switch my concentration from wood lice and "other nasty things" to Purcell's *Fairies' Isle*. The team are guests of Washington Fuchsia Society, Tyne and Wear. But there are no questions about fuchsias. Peter Daville

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00pm Bruno Brookes with the Early Breakfast Show 6.30 Steve Wright 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lynn Parsons with the Lunchtime Show, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Goodier 4.00 Yazz Campbell with Driveline, including at 3.50-4.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, presented by Jo Whiteley and Steve Lamacq 8.00 Chris Morris 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 11.00p Newsbeat 11.30p BBC English 11.45p Mitigamagazine 12.00p News 12.10p Words of Faith 12.15p News 12.25p Sports 12.30p News 12.45p Sports 1.00p News 1.10p News 1.20p News 1.30p News 1.45p News 1.50p News 2.00p News 2.10p News 2.20p News 2.30p News 2.40p News 2.50p News 3.00p News 3.10p News 3.20p News 3.30p News 3.40p News 3.50p News 4.00p News 4.10p News 4.20p News 4.30p News 4.40p News 4.50p News 5.00p News 5.10p News 5.20p News 5.30p News 5.40p News 5.50p News 6.00p News 6.10p News 6.20p News 6.30p News 6.40p News 6.50p News 7.00p News 7.10p News 7.20p News 7.30p News 7.40p News 7.50p News 8.00p News 8.10p News 8.20p 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# Portrait of the artist waiting for his royalties

**T**hat reliable spoilsport Paul Theroux, in his book *Happy Isles of Oceania*, explains why Western Samoa was where Robert Louis Stevenson chose, finally, to settle. Forget the enchantment of the place, he says: forget the childlike qualities of the people. No, the simple reason was that Stevenson wrote for western publishers, and Samoa had a decent postal service.

Suddenly, the famous photograph of Stevenson's large, ill-assorted household resting on his far-off verandah comes clearly into focus. Stevenson looks thoughtful, his stiff-backed mother bored, his American wife and step-family lazy; meanwhile sundry Samoans stare to the left of the camera, one of them grinning with an axe. Time stands still in this odd picture, in which the full weight of supporting the family, the Samoans, and possibly even the structure of the building, rests unfairly

on the creative imagination of the thin, pale chap in the centre. Thanks to Theroux, the mystery of this picture is resolved at last. These wretched people are waiting for a cheque.

Last night's splendidly filmed *Oceania* (BBC 1), complete with sea-swell orchestral music specially composed, concluded John Archer's two-part portrait Stevenson's Travels, taking the writer from his Scottish home in 1881 to his death exactly 100 years ago in Samoa at the age of 44. A short life, but even over two programmes the story seemed a little rushed; and when the film's writer Tony Mulholland, impersonating RLS in black-and-white reconstructions, pretended to topple over and die, there was a surprisingly unconvincing quality to the moment — a sort of "That's him dead, then" — instead of the conventional cue for blubbing.

If Stevenson's Travels did not

grieve for this attractive writer, however, it certainly followed him everywhere, like the "little shadow" in the poem. Saranac, Hawaii, Samoa, a South Seas leper colony — all received a visit; also Bourne-mouth. In fact, as the list of exotic locations steadily lengthened, so the Stevenson's Travels film crew appeared to the mind's eye increasingly as doomed blighters from a Stevenson story, washed up in paradise. Possibly they are still in Samoa — captivated by warm winds, trading boom-mikes for fruit, refusing to go home.

Locations were noticeably less expensive in *The Battersea* (BBC 2), a *With-out Walls* profile of Cathy Come Home. In fact cheap was the word that came to mind. An authentic Battersea Power Station made several authentic appearances, but as an all-purpose stand-in for

Hollywood hedonistic excess, the sad old inauthentic features of The Sanctuary in London's Covent Garden were obliged to make do. Wendy Morgan, in thick black eyeliner, impersonated Cathy, whose story of brief stardom, sharp decline and sad death was told simply, chronologically, and without fancy cultural contextualisation. Awkward questions still raised themselves, nevertheless.

When Morgan thrilled, "They're calling me the new Julie Christie!" it seemed a good moment to ask whether, in the late 1960s, another Julie Christie was required.

Was Cathy Come Home a good actress? Not by the evidence of last night's clips. In her big passionate scene in *Cathy Come Home* — greasy-haired, yelling at a social worker — she scored points for conviction, but the delivery was almost as plank-like as Barbara Windsor in *EastEnders*. Still, White won several awards for the film *Poor Cow*, and presumably these weren't just tributes to trendy social conscience and a very nice face. It would have been useful, though, to set White alongside other overnight "authentic" stars of the 1960s, dropped like stones when the fleeting romance with the nether world was over. In the 1960s it felt good to come from a working-class background, but by the 1970s the kudos had vanished. Being working-class

was a social embarrassment; it was bad manners.

On BBC 2, *Picture This* came up with its first dud, alas. Who's Willy? was a journey into the personal past of Michael Weigall, a former Prague Reuters correspondent, a stiff, hawk-faced man in a decisive hat and coat who stood out beautifully in thronged-pavement shots. Misled by the title's obvious allusion to *Where's Willy?* (entertaining children's picture book), I began *Who's Willy?* in fairly high spirits. "There he is!" I yelled, pointing. "And there he is again!"

But *Who's Willy?* soon quashed such enthusiasm. You know the sudden weariness that overtakes your limbs — how the smile freezes on your face — when a chatty, self-important stranger suddenly whispers that there are spies everywhere, and that the bartender is from Mossad? Well, *Who's*

Willy? was all like that. Its ill-disguised inference was that if Weigall was spied upon in his youth, in Prague, then Weigall must have been a jolly important person.

This was no paranoid delusion, at least. In late-1950s Prague, bugging was a way of life. People were doubtless carried off to funny farms if they stood up in public and declared "There is no microphone in this lamp stand!" Weigall's secret police file evidently rests among thousands; so what a waste of time it all was, watching someone flatter his own ego in such a perverse way. Even "Willy" was a let-down, turning out to be the code name of an informer against Weigall — who was excited to say he had no idea who *Willy* might have been! Gosh. It was a shame they hadn't stuck to the *Where's Willy?* concept ("There he is!"). A lot more interesting for the viewer at home.

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

## CHOICE



Evelyn Glennie on Korean culture (BBC2, 9.25pm)

**Great Journeys: Korea** (BBC2, 9.25pm)

The percussionist Evelyn Glennie travels east in search of the authentic culture of Korea. The quest proves elusive. The record shops sell American pop music, young violinists hone their skills on Mozart and the cars have been copied from Japan. Folk music and dance seem to have more to offer but turn out to be staged for the tourists. Even an "ancient" Buddhist temple turns out to be a 20th-century reconstruction. But Glennie is a persistent traveller, as well as a personable guide. By covering most of the country, from Seoul in the north to an island off the southern tip, she eventually finds what she wants. Her film is also a painless introduction to Korean history, geography, landscape and, not least, religion.

**Travelogue** (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

The *Great Journeys* series finds an unpretentious antidote in the wanderings of Pete McCarthy and friends. McCarthy is in Budapest, a city which seems to feature so often on British travel programmes that the locals must forever be tripping over cables. McCarthy's contribution is typically idiosyncratic. He is a persistent traveller, as well as a personable guide. By covering most of the country, from Seoul in the north to an island off the southern tip, she eventually finds what she wants. Her film is also a painless introduction to Korean history, geography, landscape and, not least, religion.

**Dispatches** (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

Six times Prime Minister, most recently in 1992, Giulio Andreotti has been one of the most important figures in post-war Italian politics. The Italian public was all the more shocked, therefore, when it was announced that he was being investigated for alleged links with the Mafia. These were said to have been made particularly in Sicily and to go back many years. *Dispatches* has been doing its own investigation. In assessing the case against Andreotti, the programme talks to one of the key witnesses, Tommaso Buscetta, a "pentito" or Mafia superrunner. Andreotti is also interviewed on camera and denies everything. He says he considers the Mafia to be a plague and would not have dreamed of helping it.

**Wildlife Showcase: The Lizards of Oz** (BBC2, 8.00pm)

The scorching desert sand of Australia may be the death of most creatures but for lizards it is heaven. The country boasts more than 500 species, far more than any other continent, and this film introduces a few of them. The answer to how they make do without water is that they find it in their food, and they do not need much of that. Ants and termites usually supply. One type of gecko is all-feral, has virgin births and produces only females in turn. The biology is not quite what you need to know to appreciate the lizard's grace and beauty, but it is a little more than half its size — and all under the gaze of the camera. Some lizards are dead by the time their eggs hatch. At least it saves a scramble for food. Peter Waymark

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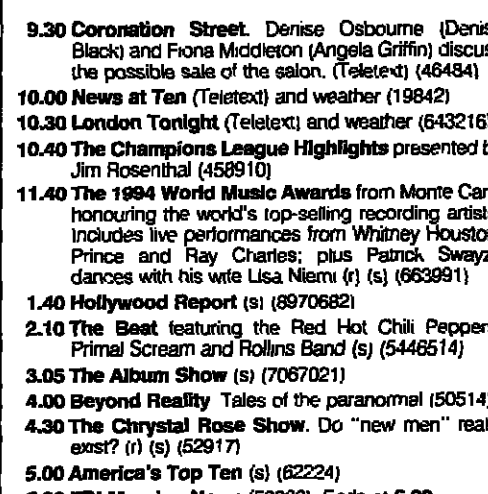
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## CARTOON

**6.00pm GMTV** (6344216)  
**9.25pm Supermarket Sweep** Dale Winton hosts the trolley-cashing shopping quiz (s) (8574688) 9.55  
**London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5421485)  
**10.00 The Time... the Place** John Stapleton hosts a topical debate with a studio audience (s) (7586842)  
**10.35 This Morning** Family magazine (5645944) 12.20pm  
**London Today** (Teletext) and weather (4333787)  
**12.30 News** (Teletext) and weather (8428129)  
**12.55 Coronation Street** (1) (Teletext) (8323620) 1.25  
**Home and Away** (Teletext) (53724736)  
**1.55 Capital Woman** with Anna Rice, Stephen Gardner and Patrice Caldwell (s) (8026546) 2.25  
**A Country Practice** (s) (92535945) 2.50 **The Young Doctors** (8938787)  
**3.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (8998945) 3.25  
**London Today** (Teletext) and weather (6955216)  
**3.30 Alphabet Castle** (s) (2141397) 3.40 **Wizards** (s) (4190077) 3.50 **Old Bear Stories** (s) (2145113)  
**4.05 Warner Brothers Cartoon** (5240281) 4.10  
**Wolf! Last in the series** (Teletext) (431804) 4.40  
**Woof!** (Teletext) (s) (8543842)  
**5.10 After 5** (Teletext) (8495228)  
**5.40 ITN Early Evening News** (Teletext) and weather (795533)  
**5.55 Your Show** Members of the public air their views (151281)  
**6.00 Home and Away** (1) (Teletext) (674)  
**6.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (761842)  
**6.50 Brighton Belles: That Was No Lady** Britain's answer to *The Golden Girls*. With Sheila Hancock, Wendy Craig, Sheila Gish and Joan Boht (s) (408465)  
**7.20 The Champions League — Live** Bob Wilson and Terry Venables present coverage of the match between Manchester United and Galatasaray at Old Trafford (1122616)



Angela Griffin and Denise Black (9.30pm)

**9.30 Coronation Street** Denise Osbourne (Denise Black) and Fiona Middleton (Angela Griffin) discuss the possible sale of the salon. (Teletext) (46494)  
**10.00 News at Ten** (Teletext) and weather (19842)  
**10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (643216)  
**10.40 The Champions League Highlights** presented by Jim Rosenthal (58910)  
**11.40 The 1994 World Music Awards** from Monte Carlo honouring the world's top-selling recording artists. Includes live performances from Whitney Houston, Prince and Ray Charles; plus Patrick Swayze dances with his wife Lisa Niemi (s) (s) (663991)  
**1.40 Hollywood Report** (s) (8970682)  
**2.10 The Beat** featuring the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Primal Scream and Rollins Band (s) (5446514)  
**3.05 The Album Show** (s) (7067021)  
**4.00 Beyond Reality** Tales of the paranormal (50514)  
**4.30 The Chrystal Rose Show** Do "new men" really exist? (s) (52917)  
**5.00 America's Top Ten** (s) (62224)  
**5.30 ITN Morning News** (50330). Ends at 6.00

**THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL**  
**6.00pm** *Railan* (1) (729622) 6.15 *Cycle* (823778) 6.45 *Casper and Friends* (821648)  
**7.15 Head to Head** in 30 (303755) 7.25 *Garfield and Friends* (766549) 7.55 *Saved by the Bell* (2032) 8.25 *Super Mario Brothers* (370737) 8.40 *Thou (181620)* 8.55 *Coastal* (168780) 9.00 *It's Dinosaur Time* (57578) 9.10 *Paddington* (43571) 9.15 *Katy Carr* (5003) 9.20 *Samurai Friends* (61804) 9.25 *Railan* (1) (729622) 9.30 *Cap and Goggles* (83525) 9.35 *Head to Head* in 30 (303755) 9.40 *Thou (181620)* 9.45 *Coastal* (168780) 9.50 *It's Dinosaur Time* (57578) 9.55 *Paddington* (43571) 10.00 *Katy Carr* (5003) 10.05 *Samurai Friends* (61804) 10.10 *Railan* (1) (729622) 10.15 *Cap and Goggles* (83525) 10.20 *Head to Head* in 30 (303755) 10.25 *Thou (181620)* 10.30 *Coastal* (168780) 10.35 *It's Dinosaur Time* (57578) 10.40 *Paddington* (43571) 10.45 *Katy Carr* (5003) 10.50 *Samurai Friends* (61804) 10.55 *Railan* (1) (729622) 11.00 *Cap and Goggles* (83525) 11.05 *Head to Head* in 30 (303755) 11.10 *Thou (181620)* 11.15 *Coastal* (168780) 11.20 *It's Dinosaur Time* (57578) 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# Australia make light work of sorry England

The Australian Cricket Board is unimpressed and Ian Macdonald, its spokesman, interrupted discussion on the matter at a press conference with a memorable put-down over England's sudden conversion to the shorter game. "The Academy kids might just finish it early, anyway," he said, insisting without a sem-



**Atherton, leg-before to Law for 60, departs**

This was a pitch on which those who were in, and settled, could bat comfortably, but those arriving fresh were doomed to struggle. England continued to lose wickets at critical moments. Gooch, advancing to try to hit Warner over the top and instead slicing the ball to mid-off, was the worst example.

At the time, England needed 38 off five overs. With Gooch present, it was just feasible. Once he left, trudging mournfully off, it was one more routine win for Australia.

# Cambridge flair proves decisive

rd University ..... 21  
bridge University . 26

test of great vivacity, the highest points aggregate in the 115 fixtures and the return of the Bowring Bowl to Cambridge, their 52nd win in the series.

Yet with five minutes left Gareth Rees kicked his second penalty goal to bring Oxford within a try of their opponents: four penalties followed to Oxford and two five-metre scrums as Cambridge nailed were bitten to the quick.

"Those final scrums were agonising," Nigel Richardson, the winning captain, admitted.

outside one defender, inside another and reach over the line in the final tackle.

But the key to both was the splendid driving play of his forwards. Cambridge arrived at Twickenham having lost their previous five games and the services through injury of Cottrell, their influential New Zealand centre. It allowed in last year's Blue, Palfrey.

Even when Oxford, with only 57 seconds played, took the lead through a casual

When Reynolds tackled him over, Cambridge had a 14-point lead. Rees led a marvellous Oxford rally, the Canadian's strength producing a try and when Martin, on the only occasion when Cambridge's tackling faltered, also scored Oxford were back in the picture. But McCarthy's kicking kept them at arm's length until the final hectic finish.

*Port-Royal*

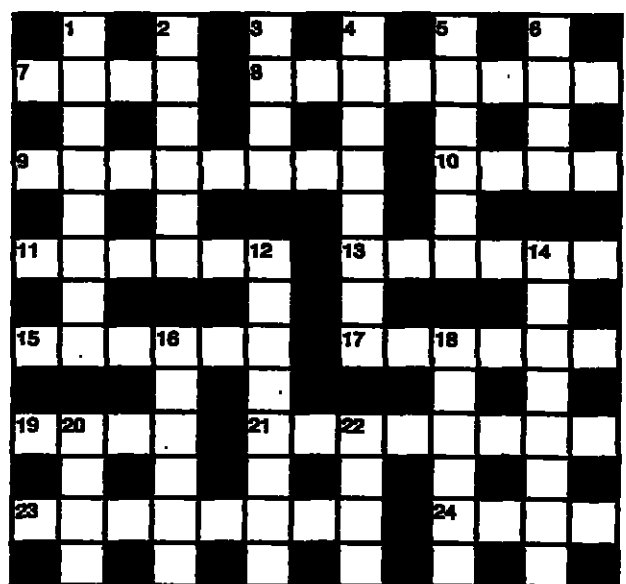
Named after the legendary French prison.  
Available in steel or titanium.  
on bracelet or strap.  
screw down crown.  
The Port-Royal comes in two sizes.

*Royal*

**First XV Game, page 43**



## Atherton, leg-before to Law for 60, departs



FINE ATLASES from Times Books (Reduced postage until Dec 31)  
 The Times Atlas of the World: 9th Comprehensive Edition £85.50; 6th Concise £35.50 - Family £147.40 - Compact £34.90 - Pocket £54.90. The Times Atlas of World History £40.50. The Times Concise Atlas of World History (pbk) NEW £15.49. The Times Atlas of the Bible £30. The Times Concise Atlas of the Bible £10.49 (reduced from £14.99). The Times Atlas of Archaeology £35.50. The Times London History Atlas £23.49. The Times Atlas of European History NEW £25.50.  
 Prices include P&P (UK) Cheques payable to *Akon Ltd.* 51 Manor Lane, London SE16 5SW. Tel 081-852 4575 24hr! No credit cards.

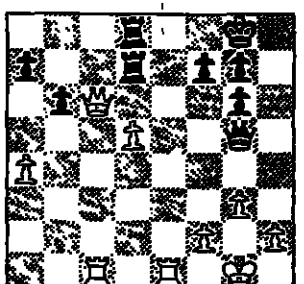
**DOWN**

1 Mrs  
2 Thir  
3 Coal  
4 Fear  
5 Sole  
6 Sma  
12 Typ  
14 Ger  
16 Poss  
18 Stri  
20 Fash  
22 Play

**ACROSS:** 1 Ascribe 5 Crum 8 Plague 9 Off-day 10 Bewilder 12 Trim 13 Hue and cry 17 Bold 18 Radiator 20 Hiatius 21 Ratify 23 Weld 24 Scapula

**DOWN:** 2 Sullen 3 Rag 4 Blend 5 Cafeteria 6 Arabic 7 Conrad 11 Inundated 14 Across 15 Bovine 16 Woeful 19 Doric 22 Tan

This position is from the game Alekhine - Colle, Paris 1925. Here Alekhine has more active pieces and a passed pawn, but this pawn appears doomed. However, Alekhine, White to play, here concluded the game with typical brilliance. Can you see what he played?



**Solution, page 46**  
**and Keene, page 8**

**By Philip Howard**

**RATINE**  
a. Haileybury College prefect  
b. A female rat  
c. A rough fabric

**FIPA**  
a. Miniature Italian smoker's pipe  
b. A stringed instrument  
c. A child's doll that pees

**RONIN**  
a. A vegetable polish  
b. A feudal outlaw  
c. The upper cerebellum

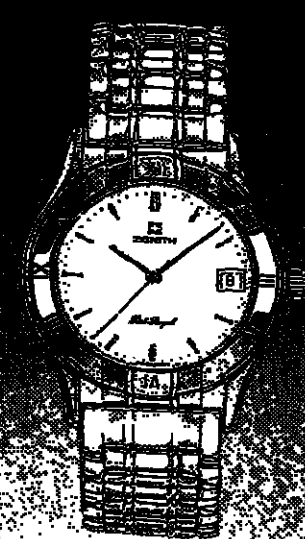
**OLINGO**  
a. A nocturnal mammal  
b. A speechless savage  
c. A make of shot silk

**Answers on page 46**

ZENITH

*Port-Royal*

Named after the legendary Caribbean port.  
Available in steel or two-tone steel and gold-plate.  
on bracelet or strap. 50 metre water-resistance.  
screw down crown and sapphire crystal.  
The Port-Royal comes in ladies and gents models.



Available from Harrods, Selfridges, selected branches of Watches of Switzerland, Mappin & Webb, Walker & Hall, Goldsmiths, Zeus, and leading independent jewellers throughout the UK and Ireland.

For further information call 0181 891 4391.

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